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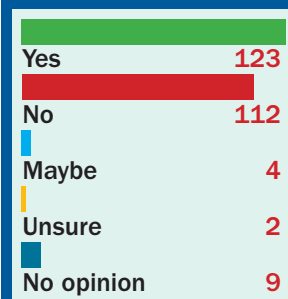
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POLL RESULTS

The Marianas Economic Research and Development Foundation has launched a petition that asks: Should casino gaming be authorized in the Third Senatorial District (Saipan)? How would you answer this?



Sunday, March 16, 2014

INSIDE

LOCAL



A state-of-the-art hydroponic greenhouse opens in Kagman.

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ASIA



Malaysian authorities turn focus on the pilots as the hunt for the missing jet widens.

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Hasselback OK with suspending arrest warrant vs Fitial. PAGE 3
Tinian High School's Yun Ha Seo tops STEM Fair again. PAGE 6

It's Sheraton for E Land



By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

South Korean investment giant E Land is bringing to Saipan the global hotel brand Sheraton for the reopening of the former The Palms Resort. A Japan-based executive of Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide Inc., owner of Sheraton, joined E Land in announcing the partnership late Friday afternoon to a crowd led by Gov. Eloy S. Inos, other public officials, and major businesses in the CNMI.

See SHERATON on Page 4

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, exchanges pleasantries with E Land's Micronesia Resort Inc. chief executive officer and president Seong Min Kang, second from left, and Kazuhiro Hashimoto, second from right, of Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide Inc., owner of Sheraton, on Friday afternoon.

DPL picks HK-based Honest Profit

» **Firm aims to build \$120M, 300-room hotel in San Antonio**

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Department of Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio awarded Friday to Hong Kong-based Honest Profit International Ltd. the chance to lease a piece of property in San Antonio for its initial \$120-million plan of building a 300-room hotel complex, months after DPL closed requests for proposals for both the San Antonio and Marpi lots.

DPL hopes to expedite the preliminary negotiation of a land lease for 40,827 square meters of public land in San Antonio, at a time when the CNMI needs additional rooms to accommodate an increasing number of tourists to the islands.

After reviewing the proposals and background, DPL picked Honest Profit and its joint venture partners over South Korean investment giant E Land's Micronesia Resort Inc.

See DPL on Page 4

Manta Ray Band brings home Sweepstakes Trophy



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Band, under the baton of musical director and conductor William DeWitt, performs at the Tumon Bay Music Festival over the weekend in Guam. The band, and its percussion ensemble, emerged as this year's overall champion of the music competition, bringing home the perpetual Sweepstakes Trophy.

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The 45-member delegation of the Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band and its percussion ensemble were adjudged the champion once more and were bestowed the perpetual Sweepstakes Trophy at the 2014 Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam over the weekend.

The prestigious award was jointly awarded to the band and the percussion ensemble, which according to the adjudicators score sheets, tied for the top honor this year.

Five SSHS ensembles have earned this distinction in the 10-year history of the festival—in 2008, 2009, 2011, and two for 2014.

"We are glad to be home in the CNMI! I am so happy for the band

members. Their hard work and dedication was rewarded last night at the award ceremony which followed the command performances at the Agana Shopping Center," said the band's musical director and conductor, William DeWitt, upon arriving on island.

This year, the SSHS group swept 10 gold medals in various categories: SSHS Manta Ray Concert Band (HS

See MANTA on Page 4

Local

Inos, lawmakers try to fix Saipan casino bill together

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos and lawmakers met Friday to go over areas of concern in the controversial Saipan casino bill that need to be amended should the governor choose to sign rather than veto the measure, including clarification of intent not to shut down existing casino operations such as Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, changes in the timelines, and allocation of revenues.

The governor himself said Friday he's not taking any position yet whether to sign or veto the bill until his next meeting

with lawmakers on Tuesday, when a list of proposed changes—should the bill becomes law—is ready.

The joint leadership meeting comes amid public questions and requests for clarification from lawmakers, whom they said passed the bill without committee review and public hearing.

A list of the proposed amendments is now being put together by the House and Senate counsels and the Office of the Attorney General, as a result of Friday's meeting between the governor and lawmakers.

Saipan Tribune sources said

investors would still be required to pay a \$1 million nonrefundable application fee within 15 days of the bill's signing, but one of the proposed amendments is that the investor will no longer be required to make a partial license fee payment of \$30 million also within 15 days of the bill becoming law.

There would be another 45 days from the payment of the application fee to pay \$30 million in license fee, and another 45 days from that actual payment date, before a final certification of award.

Although there was a technical correction already made

by the House, lawmakers and the governor want to make sure that the tax rebate program won't be affected by the casino gaming bill.

Also among the proposed changes is to clarify the language that the casino bill won't discontinue or disallow casino operations on Tinian and Rota.

Lawmakers interviewed, however, said proposals in Friday's meeting are still "fluid" and could change as days pass.

Only one lawmaker who voted "no" to the casino bill, Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), attended the closed-door meeting.

The rest of those in the meet-

ing voted "yes" to pass the bill. House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) was also in the meeting with the governor, although the speaker was off-island when the bill passed the House.

The governor, in an interview, he and the lawmakers "went over the bill and I pointed out the major areas of concern. Some members also want more clarity with some of the provisions and so we basically agreed that those will be addressed."

"The legal counsels will put together the language that will be needed if we need to amend it... We will meet again Tuesday to cover the final language and then at the time we will decide how we are going to go about it," Inos told reporters in an interview at E Land's announcement on Friday that the former The Palms Resort will reopen under the global hotel brand Sheraton.

Inos said the bill is not a "perfect" one, and is undergoing thorough review. The bill's main author is House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan).

The governor said: "A lot of the requirements will be done through regulations that the [casino] commission will promulgate."

The House speaker, in an interview shortly after emerging from the meeting, said the public's concerns are being taken into consideration.

"If the t's are crossed and the i's are dotted, then I think we can move to the next step but it's safe to say that it would be through amendments, which means that the bill would go through. I think the governor is cautious. I guess he wants to see the amendments first," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sen. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan) said a lot of options are under consideration, including signing the bill with assurance that it would be immediately amended, recalling the bill from the governor, vetoing the bill, or allowing it to automatically become law after 40 days without his action.

"But members, including me, recommend that the governor sign it into law now and then we make the amendments as quickly as we can so we don't have people wondering what the content of the legislation would be," he said.

The governor has 40 days starting on March 10 or until around April 18 to act on the bill, or the bill automatically becomes law without his signature.

A day before the joint leadership meeting, Reyes said he prefers that the governor "call both the Senate and the House of Representatives and address his concern and what needs to be changed, and sign the bill and we'll amend it." He said it would be "easier

and faster that way."

Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan) earlier hoped that the administration and the Legislature would come up with a "unified position."

"And yes, there is now a unified position—and that is, to make the bill work. My guess is that the governor will most likely sign it but he wants assurance that the Legislature would amend it, and correct and clarify the provisions that are not clear or have problems," he said.

Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), co-author of the casino bill, said if it were up to her, she would like to see the bill signed and then amended.

"I would like to make sure that we look at concerns raised. I'm also crossing my fingers that the concerns will be addressed," she said, shortly after emerging from the meeting on Capital Hill.

Changes

The governor reiterated that he would like to see that portions of gross revenue taxes from the casino gaming operation be allocated to help subsidize the so-called LEAC rate for residential customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., thereby lowering utility rates.

"This casino thing is basically trying to rescue [the] Retirement Fund situation, but that benefits retirees only. We feel if we allocate portion of the gross revenue tax, then that would benefit everybody, every resident, retiree or not retiree," the governor added.

Inos said the bill would still be called a Commonwealth legislation, although there were discussions to change it to an exclusive gaming license "within the Commonwealth." The primary reason, he said, is to make sure that proceeds from the casino operations would also be allocated to Rota and Tinian and not only Saipan.

"But if the concern is that this bill would affect casino operations in the two [senatorial] districts; that is not the case," he said.

Inos, in responding to media questions, said the new investor would have "exclusive" license to operate a casino only on Saipan, and won't be allowed to build casinos on Rota and Tinian. But the exclusive Saipan casino license holder can build more than one casino on Saipan.

Moreover, the governor said the investor can also build the minimum 2,000 hotel rooms on more than one property, given that areas for building one big hotel on Saipan is limited.

"We don't have the footprint but you could probably have three separate hotels as long as they all add up to at least 2,000 rooms," Inos said.

The minimum required investment in the CNMI, however, will remain at \$2 billion.

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Hasselback OK with suspending arrest warrant vs Fitial

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The CNMI government has agreed to suspend, with some conditions, the arrest warrant against former Benigno R. Fitial so he could return to the CNMI from the Philippines and face the criminal charges filed against him.

Office of the Public Auditor legal counsel George L. Hasselback said that Fitial's voluntary return to the CNMI would save significant time, effort, and money that could be better used for other public purposes.

Among the conditions that Hasselback wants is for Fitial to give a certain date to present himself before the Superior Court for an initial appearance.

Should the former governor fail to appear in court on the designated date and time, the warrant for his arrest will automatically go into full force, Hasselback said.

Fitial should also agree, in writing, to waive any challenges to extradition if he fails to appear in court on the designated date and time.

"Should these conditions be met, the Commonwealth would agree to permit the defendant to make a voluntary appearance before this court. At such time, the Commonwealth will address the matter of bail and make whatever arguments are appropriate to this court regarding the same," Hasselback said.

Fitial earlier said he wants to return to the CNMI as he has no desire to become a fugitive. Fitial filed the declaration, through attorney Stephen Nutting, on Feb. 27, 2014.

"I have no desire to become a fugitive, forever unable to see the family and friends I have acquired throughout my lifetime," the 68-year-old former governor said.

Fitial claimed that his health concerns, as well as a recent stroke by his father-in-law prevented his immediate return to the CNMI.

Nutting said that Fitial's absence from the Commonwealth has not been because of any desire to avoid addressing the criminal charges that are pending or have been threatened against him.

"His return to his home in the CNMI has simply been delayed by extraordinary and exceptional circumstances which were well beyond his control," Nutting said.

Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman has scheduled an initial appearance hearing today, Monday, at 9:30am, for Fitial's voluntary appearance. He ordered Nutting and the government's counsel to appear at the hearing.

In the government's reply on Friday, Hasselback said the court has the discretion to grant Fitial's request.

Furthermore, Hasselback said, the government has so far not elected to invoke the "fugitive disentitlement doctrine," and therefore will not comment on the portions of Fitial's motion that argue that this doctrine is inapplicable.

Hasselback said likewise, the government, at this time, has no comment on the reasons offered by Fitial to explain his absence from the CNMI, as, given the Commonwealth's

position on the motion, the Commonwealth would submit that they are irrelevant for the purposes of this response.

Fitial resigned as governor on Feb. 21, 2013.



Fitial



Hasselback

Immediately following his resignation, Fitial and his wife Josie left the CNMI and traveled to California to be with their children and also to meet

with his doctor to address medical issues that had been a constant source of his pain for the last several years.

Because they failed to meet his doctor in California, he and his wife traveled to the Philippines in early March 2013 to seek treatment for his back problems and other medical issues.

Fitial disclosed that most recently, he was asked to undergo certain neurological tests to determine the source of a continuing balance problem that makes it difficult for him to walk.

"The results of those tests have not yet returned. I am hopeful that this will not further delay my return to

Saipan," he said.

Fitial said despite the personal turmoil that has confronted him and his family, he had every hope that he could return home and to face the charges against him.

Nutting asserted that the court has ample grounds to exercise its discretion to quash the warrant of arrest and to allow Fitial to voluntarily appear in court.

Nutting said if Fitial is allowed to appear voluntarily, he gains no advantage other than not being forced to suffer the indignity of arrest.

"Simply put, the CNMI government will suffer no prejudice," the lawyer added.

In March 2013, the Office of

the Public Auditor filed seven criminal charges against Fitial for his role in allegedly shielding former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham from being served with penal summons in August 2012.

OPA charged Fitial with several charges related to theft of services, conspiracy to obstruct justice, interference with law enforcement officer, misconduct in public office, and interference with service of process.

Last Feb. 19, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo found Buckingham guilty of all public corruption charges except one and sentenced him to 3.5 years in prison, all suspended.

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Frances Quichocho fails to complete testimony

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Attorney Colin Thompson's cross-examination of Frances Quichocho resumed Friday in federal court but lasted less than two hours as Frances asked to be excused again, saying she's not feeling well.

As this developed, Annie

Rose Zandueta, a former employee of Frances and her husband, attorney Ramon Quichocho, testified Friday afternoon that Jung Ja Kim, who is suing the Quichochoes for racketeering, told her that Ramon Quichocho raped her and that she and the Quichocho couple had a threesome. Zandueta was a rebuttal witness for Kim.

Frances failed to show up for the continuation of her cross-examination on Thursday, prompting U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona to reschedule the trial for Friday. Ramon Quichocho also didn't appear in court as he reportedly brought his wife to the hospital.

On Friday, Thompson

showed Frances more chats between Ramon Quichocho and Kim in 2008. Frances maintained that she pretended to be Ramon Quichocho in those chats to find out if her husband had an affair with Kim.

In one chat in which the sender reminded Kim about a love mark on her neck, Thompson asked Frances how she knew that Kim had one. Frances replied that she saw Kim with a

love mark on the neck that afternoon.

Thompson pointed out that in the chats, Kim repeatedly urged Ramon Quichocho to go back to his wife and tell Frances "you're number one." Still, Frances continued to deceive Kim after this, Thompson said. Frances agreed that she made more effort to deceive Kim through chats.

Frances said she doesn't remember when she eventually

stopped pretending to be Ramon Quichocho in those chats.

When the trial continued at 1:30pm after a lunch break, Frances asked to be excused as she was not feeling well. Manglona excused Frances and ordered her to return today, Monday at 8am, to continue the cross-examination. Frances was seen holding her stomach as her husband escorted her outside the courtroom.

DPL

From Page 1

The DPL decision came on the same day E Land announced a partnership with Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide Inc. to renovate and reopen the former The Palms Resort in San Roque under the global hotel brand Sheraton. E Land also owns Coral Ocean Point on Saipan.

"I am pleased to inform you that your company, Honest Profit International Ltd., and its joint venture partners have been awarded the opportunity to lease the subject public land on Saipan. The evaluation com-

mittee selected the proposal you and your joint venture partners submitted for the award," Tenorio said in his one-page March 14 letter to Sam Chan of Honest Profit International Ltd.

Tenorio said the decision came after an exhaustive effort expended during several discussions with the firm and its joint venture partners to determine their ability to undertake the scope of work, including financing and construction of a hotel resort complex in San Antonio.

The DPL secretary himself with to Hong Kong to check on Honest Profit and joint venture partners' operations and financing ability.

Tenorio said they arrived at

the decision with the consent of Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

Honest Profit plans to add \$60 million in investment for an additional 300 rooms, and this was stated in Tenorio's letter.

"Your confirmation to undertake the project and pursue it to completion with an initial investment of \$120 million for a 300 hotel room complex, and an additional investment of \$60 million for an additional 300 hotel room complex, if additional public land is available in the future, is acknowledged," Tenorio told Honest Profit's Chan.

DPL's RFP for the San Antonio lot called for the development of a minimum of 200-room hotel.

In his Friday letter, Tenorio also told Honest Profit that DPL wishes to expedite the preliminary negotiation of a land lease.

Tenorio sent a separate letter containing DPL's draft lease for Honest Profit's review. The DPL secretary said he hopes to meet with the investor group as soon as possible to negotiate the terms and conditions of the lease.

"Congratulations on your selection, and I look forward to a mutually productive relationship as you venture to assist the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas improve its economy with your significant investment of capital into our economy," Tenorio added.

Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday he's glad that DPL has arrived at a decision, pointing out that his and Sen. Pete Reyes' (Ind-Saipan) earlier letter was to ask DPL to do its due diligence "to make sure that whoever is selected for the San Antonio land will be able to finish the project and comply with all the requirements of the lease agreement"—whether it's E Land or Honest Profit.

Rep. Antonio Benavente (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, separately said yesterday it's good to hear that DPL has already made its decision.

"Hopefully, DPL can start negotiating with the investor

so we can see their proposed development plan for San Antonio land area," he said, adding that the CNMI needs more hotel rooms "as soon as possible."

The three other investor groups that didn't make it to DPL's short list for the San Antonio lot RFP were KSA Corp., INNOASSET, and Future Ent. Inc. & Reading Investment & Securities and Korea Asset Investment Corp.

DPL had already earlier picked Tan Holdings over E Land's Micronesia Resort Inc. for a long-term lease of almost 10 hectares of public lands in Marpi. Tan Holdings proposes to build an over \$133-million, 455-room high-end hotel resort.

MANTA

From Page 1

band division command performance winner); SSHS percussion ensemble; SSHS Rock Band "FLOW"; SSHS mixed wind ensemble; SSHS trombone quartet; SSHS clarinet quartet; SSHS flute soloist, Norton Skerei; SSHS euphonium soloist, Allen Junseo Park (command performance winner, solo and small ensemble competition); SSHS vocal soloist, Angela Cruz; and SSHS marimba soloist, Ryan Cole.

DeWitt said that all 45 mem-

bers participated in select ensembles such as the TBMF Honor Band and the Tumon Bay International Wind Orchestra where they received encouragement and mentorship from Wayne James, Atsushi Ozawa, Dr. Jeffrey Boeckman, and the intrepid Dr. Roman Rudnytsky who will be in the CNMI this week to do an encore piano performance of George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with the Manta Band next Saturday night in a concert sponsored by the Friends of the Arts.

With this latest achievement of the CNMI students, DeWitt said they truly deserve the con-

tinued support of everyone on the islands.

"I would like to congratulate all of the other Saipan schools who participated and performed their very best for the judges. It is abundantly clear that our CNMI PSS students are truly outstanding and deserve an even greater outpouring of support commensurate with the level of success they demonstrate each year in regional or international settings. These young people are the finest ambassadors we can send, showcasing how special our islands truly are," said DeWitt.

Besides the SSHS Manta Ray Band, PSS also sent two other music groups that also brought home distinction and honor to the CNMI—last year's festival champion Marianas High School Rhythm 'N Harmony and the Koblerville Elementary School's Umang Glee Club, which bagged gold awards in the high school choir division and elementary school choir division, respectively.

DeWitt recognized the presence and support extended to the SSHS delegates during the weeklong competition that ended on Saturday, March 15.

"We were thrilled to have numerous alumni and former SSHS staff and administrators in attendance last night to celebrate the band's achievements. Mr. Jesse Tudela, the former principal who led the effort to bring the band to London for the 2012 Olympics, was among them," he disclosed.

This year's festival was the 10th consecutive coordinated by founder Max Ronquillo, conductor of the Guam Territorial Band and the 721st Army National Guard Band. He was assisted by several SSHS band graduates who now live in

Guam: Donovan Tudela, Elejohn Solomon, Mereylen Denora, Joeray Delacruz, Naomi Cabrera, and David Bautista.

The SSHS Manta Ray Band has been participating in the Guam music festival for many years and has had a bright history of ruling the competition as its overall champion.

The band has also won silver in an international music competition in New York City and has performed at the Sydney Opera House in Australia. In July 2012, the band made history when it performed at the Olympic Games in London.

SHERATON

From Page 1

E Land picked Sheraton over Hilton for the renovation of the 313-room hotel in San Roque.

If the multimillion renovation plan pushes through as scheduled, the former Palms Resort would reopen under the Sheraton brand around summer 2015.

Meanwhile, E Land officials said they could still work with Hilton or other global hotel brands for its other projects in the CNMI, including the Coral Ocean Point which is also undergoing renovation and expansion.

Sheraton is owned by and is the largest and most global brand of Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide Inc., one of the leading hotel and leisure companies in the world with nearly 1,200 properties in 100 countries.

Reopening the former Palms Resort under the Sheraton name next year would bring to two the number of global hotel brands in the CNMI; the first and so far only one is Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"Today, we have finally signed the letter of intent with

the brand Sheraton under Starwood Hotel Group for Palms Resort. This is a great and also important day in a sense that this is to announce the start of Palms Resort's renovation. We are truly happy to share this important moment with you all today. Palms will be branded 'Sheraton' and will be one of the finest hotels in the CNMI," Seong Min Kang, chief executive officer and president of E Land's Micronesian Resort Inc., told the crowd gathered at the St. Angelo Chapel at The Palms Resort.

E Land, which also owns Pacific Islands Club and Coral Ocean Point on Saipan, hopes that bringing an internationally known brand to Saipan will help bring more high-end tourists from major markets such as China, Korea, and Japan, among others.

"E Land is planning to invest more on Saipan when we have an opportunity, and we want to develop the CNMI to be a world-famous tour destination. We will follow our company philosophy by returning profit to the local society and creating jobs, and to contribute to the lo-

cal community development," Kang said.

Kazuhiro Hashimoto, assistant vice president for Starwood Hotel and Resorts' acquisition and development and regional director of operations for Japan, Korea and Guam, told the crowd that Starwood is "quite happy to start working with E Land toward revitalizing this beautiful property on Saipan."

Starwood Hotels and Resorts, headquartered in New York, has nine internationally renowned brands including Sheraton, Westin, W, St. Regis, The Luxury Collection, Le Méridien, Four Points by Sheraton, Aloft, and Element.

Hashimoto, in an interview, said they were first approached by E Land three years ago to look at the hotel and see whether it can be rebranded under Starwoods Hotels and Resorts.

He said Starwoods Hotels and Resorts sent a technical and design team to Saipan to check out the former Palms Resort.

About a year ago, discussion on the terms and conditions of the hotel renovation and the use of the Sheraton name started, leading to the signing of the let-

ter of intent "which means we are going to discuss about the revitalization of this hotel exclusively." The certificate of agreement is expected to be signed later this year.

When asked whether Starwoods will invest money here, Hashimoto said, "This is still an open question, still we haven't discussed about that."

"We are quite excited to expand our brand. There's Sheraton in Guam. We never had an opportunity to expand our brand on Saipan. Saipan is still a very important market for the tourism industry—China, Korea, and Japan—so we are quite happy to get this opportunity to expand our exposure of the Sheraton brand," Hashimoto said.

He said Starwood also took into consideration E Land's credibility as an investment partner, along with the state of the hotel facility on Saipan.

"We are quite happy to start this kind of relationship with a very established company in South Korea," added Hashimoto, who has been with Starwood for 11 years, starting with the finance area until going into the acquisitions and development

area seven years ago.

The governor, for his part, thanked E Land for finding "the best fit" for the San Roque property and for giving the CNMI "additional accommodations that the economy needs."

"This will add value to this property. It will bring more visitors," Inos said.

The governor added that the CNMI looks forward to the reopening of the hotel. He congratulated E Land "for a job well done."

Perry Tenorio, managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority, said the reopening of the 313-room hotel will mean accommodation for additional 62,000-plus tourists to the CNMI.

"It's going to enhance and increase our visibility," Tenorio said.

He said having additional hotel rooms "is a big issue right now" as the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported that in fiscal year 2013, the average occupancy was about 85 percent "so we're almost close to saturation."

Jerry Tan, president of Tan Holdings, one of the biggest

business owners in the CNMI, said having another global hotel brand in the CNMI "is definitely very positive and exciting news for our [tourism] industry and the community."

"So between Hyatt and Sheraton, I'm sure it will help the CNMI to get to the next level in terms of the exposure that we will receive. So I think this very positive for the CNMI tourism industry," he added.

Also at the announcement ceremony were Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Antonio Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Alex Sablan, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino general manager Tom Liu, Mega Stars Overseas Ltd. chief executive officer Cario Hon, and other private sector representatives and government officials.

Besides Kang, other E Land officials present were MRI chief operating officer Taeho Kim, Coral Ocean Point operations manager "Dennis" Seo, and COP's human resources manager Bertha Leon Guerrero.

CNMI GETS ASSURANCE CRIMEA CRISIS WON'T IMPACT RUSSIAN TOURISM

Kilili to ask US Labor chief to 'make public' decision on CW program

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said Friday he will ask U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas Perez at their meeting later this month "to make public" his decision on the requested extension of the CW program that gives the CNMI access to some 10,000 foreign workers. The CW program expires on Dec. 31, 2014, unless extended.

Sablan, at the same time, said he was assured by a top U.S. Department of Homeland Security official that the existing U.S. visa waiver program for CNMI-bound Russian tourists won't be affected as a result of the Ukraine-Russia row over the disputed Crimea region.

"I would be meeting with Labor Secretary Perez later this month. We are now asking him to make his decision public," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* at the ribbon cutting of a hydroponic greenhouse in Kagman on Friday afternoon.

Sablan believes that the U.S. Labor secretary already has a decision on the matter. Without an extension of the CW program, the CNMI loses immediate access to some 10,000

skilled and professional foreign workers, mostly from the Philippines, after Dec. 31, 2014.

This comes at a time when the CNMI is seeing improvements in its tourism-based economy, after years of lackluster performance.

While the U.S. Labor secretary has until July or 180 days before the Dec. 31 end of the CW program to decide under U.S. Public Law 110-229, the absence of a decision at least four years since the CNMI started asking for a five-year extension is a constant source of uncertainty for the local economy, its businesses, would-be investors, workers, and the government.

The delegate also said the CNMI will still enjoy the U.S. visa waiver program for Russian tourists bound for the CNMI after getting an assurance from a top DHS official.

"It's good to know that our tourism won't be affected by that," he said.

The CNMI has been monitoring the situation in Ukraine's volatile Crimea region where tension with Russia continues to escalate.

President Barack Obama issued an executive order denying U.S. visas and blocking financial transactions for Russians

who are determined to have been involved in military action in Ukraine. U.S. visa restrictions and cancellations affect only travel to the United States.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in a separate interview Friday, said he is hopeful that any U.S. restrictions on Russia won't affect the

CNMI's tourism.

The CNMI cannot afford to lose at this time some \$130 mil-

lion in annual economic revenue from Russian tourists who are allowed to enter the CNMI

without U.S. visas. The same visa waiver privilege is accorded tourists from China.

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CHC: Over 60,000 visits yearly, daily census at 90 pct. capacity

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. described the Commonwealth Health Center as a busy community hospital that draws a large number of visits every year.

Hospital services director Jesse Tudela reported to the corporation that the facility has more than 60,000 outpatient visits each year. It also has a daily census nearing 90 percent capacity.

The public hospital is an 86-bed Medicare certificated facility that opened in 1968 and was expanded in 2007. Its scope of services includes emergency medicine, obstetrics, post-partum care, adult and neonatal intensive care, radiology, medical social services, food and dietetic services, medical lab, pharmacy, hemodialysis, mental health and various outpatient services.

According to Tudela's report, which he submitted Thursday to the CHCC board, the hospital strives to maintain full staffing of its health care workforce through recruitment, retention, and building local capacity. He said it is the mission of CHC to provide and deliver compassionate patient care, patient

safety and skilled healthcare to people on the islands.

Despite a number of challenges, Tudela cited some notable accomplishments throughout the hospital that he attributes to the collaboration and shared ownership by all hospital staff, which bated the immediate jeopardy status in early 2013.

Tudela acknowledged, though, that challenges still exist, mainly due to the inadequate funding for the hospital's operation.

During last week's meeting of the CHCC board, it was indicated that the corporation will continue to face similar, if not more, challenges ahead. This, after the agency's financial data showed that the corporation remains in the red and is operating at a deficit—some \$6 million in fiscal year 2013—due to unpaid obligations to vendors.

CHC's Condition of Participation with the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid is still hanging in the balance after CMS delayed anew its decision, giving the hospital until June this year to rectify ongoing concerns.

Saipan Tribune learned that of the 13 "conditions" identified in an earlier CMS report, nine remain not fully complied with by the public hospital.




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Tinian High School's Yun Ha Seo tops STEM Fair again

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Defending STEM Fair high school champion Yun Ha Seo, a senior at Tinian High School, dominated the science fair competition after being crowned the overall champion and official representative of the Commonwealth to the upcoming Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.

Seo will compete with 1,600 other bright and young scientists in Los Angeles, California this May. The national contest is considered the world's largest international pre-college science competition and hosts over 70 countries, regions, and territories annually.

Seo entered the Mathematics category with a project about the Rivest-Shamir-Adleman, or RSA, algorithm. The high school student implemented the algorithm into a computer software as an encryption. Her project bested dozens of other entries from both private and public high schools during Saturday's competition at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Seo said it took her over four months to finalize her entry with her teacher-coach Mikkell Castro. She vowed to work harder this year as she once again represents the CNMI as state champion.

"I worked a lot harder this year so I feel like I will do better," she told *Saipan Tribune*. Seo plans to improve her project by developing a double encryption.

Her teacher coach was just as excited. "We weren't sure if she was going to win. We are happy with the project she did. I feel awesome that she will be



San Antonio School's Raina Avelino, Tinian's Mefi Norech, Mount Carmel School's Kyla Monique Cabrera, Tinian's Nicole Diaz, and high school STEM Fair champion Yun Ha Seo are awarded gold medals at the 2014 CNMI-wide STEM Fair held at the Marianas High School Gymnasium last Saturday.

representing the CNMI using math and technology. That is totally amazing to me," Castro said.

Four other students who also bagged gold medals in their divisions will compete at the Guam science fair this April. They include Tinian's Mefi Norech, overall kindergarten to first grade finisher; Mount Carmel School's Kyla Monique Cabrera, overall second to third grade finisher; San Antonio School's Raina Avelino, overall fourth to 5th grade finalist; and Tinian's Nicole Diaz, the overall representative for the

sixth to eighth grade division.

Over 20 schools, 195 entries

According to STEM fair coordinator Jeaniffer Cubangbang, PSS received a total of 195 entries from private and public schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. This is an increase from last year's 177 entries.

"We would like to congratulate all 195 participants. ...It was more than just selecting the best scientists, technicians, engineers, or mathematicians. We celebrate the effort and success of

all our students," she said.

The STEM Fair featured seven categories: life science, physical science, earth and space science, health and nutrition and medical, behavioral and social science, technology and electronics, and mathematics.

Marianas Baptist Academy principal Ramiro Trinidad, who has judged the science fair for 27 years now, said that "usefulness and relevance to the community" is a key component of a winning science project.

"Every year it gets better and better.

The student's presentations were outstanding and I see the progress. You can see the learning process," he said.

Rota's Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School's Marriette Barcinas competed with her project called "Ozone Depletion." The 7th grader bagged first place in her category. "I will hopefully make it again next year. I can't wait," she said.

This year's sponsors include IT&E, Top Notch, Lollipops, National Office Supply, Pacific Islands Club, Herman's Bakery, Barry's Pizza, Century Insurance, and Saipan Advertising.

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Man allegedly swallows 'ice' found in his possession

A man who allegedly sold stolen items from a burglarized house in Kagman III and was later found in possession of il-

legal drugs swallowed a small zip-loc bag that contained a substance believed to be methamphetamine or "ice."

The zip-loc was on a table and was being watched by a detective when John Aldan Castro, 41, swallowed it, according to police detective Catherine B. Pangelinan.

Pangelinan stated in her report that when asked why he swallowed the evidence, Castro replied that it's the only way not to get charged for "ice."

The amount of "ice" involved was not indicated in the report.

A green leafy substance that was also seized from Castro tested presumptive positive for marijuana, Pangelinan said.

Police arrested Castro in Kagman III on Wednesday for receiving stolen property and illegal possession of controlled substance. His bail was set at \$20,000 cash.

Pangelinan stated in her report that police responded on Feb. 24 to a report of a burglary and theft incident at a house in Kagman III. The suspect or suspects stole gold jewelry, a wristwatch, and three purses, worth a total of \$850.

The following day, Pangelinan said, the victim called police to report that her close friend managed to buy her two stolen purses from a man, was later identified as Castro, who is a regular poker customer at Kagman Poker.

Castro had allegedly approached the victim's friend and offered to sell her a purse. Aware of the items that were

stolen from her friend, she asked the suspect to bring the purse to Kagman Poker where she works. Castro later came with two purses. The victim's friend brought Castro and the purses into the laundry cashier's booth so the surveillance camera footage would catch the transaction.

The victim's friend gave Castro \$30 for the purses. The friend then told the victim about the purchase and led detective Pangelinan to the poker booth, where they reviewed the camera's footage. Another detective watched the video and identified Castro in the footage.

Pangelinan said that during her and another detective's

interview at Castro's house, the suspect denied being in the video but admitted that he was at the laundry and poker establishment when the footage was taken.

During their interview, Pangelinan said she noticed a cup that contained a small zip-lock bag containing a white crystalline substance on the kitchen table. She also found a green leafy substance that appeared to be marijuana on the table.

Pangelinan said that Castro admitted it was "ice" that he purchased the previous night.

Pangelinan took photos of the illegal drugs and asked the narcotics unit to come to the

suspect's house with a narcotics identification test kit.

Pangelinan said that while she was interviewing Castro's wife outside the house, the other detective informed her that the suspect suddenly swallowed the bag of "ice."

On Feb. 26, Pangelinan said, a woman appeared at the Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation and surrendered a purse that she also bought from Castro for \$15.

The woman said she decided to turn over the purse to police after she later learned that the purse had been stolen from the same victim. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Jobseekers invited to NMC's Career Fair

As part of its efforts to connect students and other jobseekers with prospective employers, the Northern Marianas College will be hosting its annual Career Fair Day on Thursday, April 3, 2014. All community members are invited to attend this free event.

The Career Fair, which will be held from 9am to 12pm at NMC's Building D, will feature several private sector companies, non-profit organizations, and government agencies that are looking to fill key vacancies within their organizations.

At the Fair, jobseekers will be able to meet and speak with recruiters and representatives from the Public School System, Pacific Islands Club, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Office of Personnel Management, DFS Saipan Ltd., Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Sorensen Media Group, Hyatt Regency Saipan, CNMI Department of Labor: Employment Services and Workforce Investment Agency, CDI Workforce Development, College Access Challenge Grant, NMC Human Resources, and more.

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic &

Sexual Violence will be also participating in the career fair to boost membership, recruit volunteers, and promote activities for Sexual Assault Awareness Month, including Project PROM.

"We are grateful for the support that we got from businesses in the community," said Neda C. Deleon Guerrero, Career Services manager. "We look forward to helping many members of the community to connect with prospective employers."

Jobseekers who plan to attend the fair are encouraged to dress professionally, prepare copies of updated résumés, expect one-on-one time with employers, and be ready for on the spot interviews. Participants are also asked to prepare to answer and ask questions, to be clear and engaging when speaking, and most importantly, to exhibit confidence.

For further information about the Career Fair, contact Deleon Guerrero at 237-6769 or via email at neda.dlguerrero@marianas.edu or visit www.marianas.edu. The Career Fair is supported by the College Access Challenge Grant program. (*NMC*)

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION RATE PROCEEDING DOCKET 13-01

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission [Commission] will conduct a public hearing at **9:00 a.m.** on **Wednesday March 19, 2014** at the CDA Conference Room, CDA Building, Beach Road, San Jose to receive and consider evidence, discussion and public comment regarding that portion of Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's [CUC] July 5, 2013 petition for rate relief, as amended on November 8, 2013, which requested that the Commission approve a new large commercial customer standby charge. By Decision dated February 5, 2014, the Commission suspended the effectiveness of the proposed charge pursuant to §8432(a) pending further review. The Decision directed CUC to file supplemental testimony regarding: a) a cost analysis of the proposed charge; b) the revenue, which would be produced by the charge; c) comparable charges in similar jurisdictions; d) its impact on large commercial customers; e) CUC's plan to encourage large commercial customers to return to the grid; and f) the loss of revenue, which has resulted from the suspension. CUC has been directed to file this supplemental testimony on or before March 7, 2014. This testimony and the proposed standby charge will be posted on CUC's website for public view and examination. The Commission has directed that special notice be provided to CUC's large commercial customers, which have been identified as being subject to the proposed charge.

THE COMMISSION WELCOMES THE PUBLIC'S ATTENDANCE at the hearing. Public comments will be received at the hearing in accordance with the Commission's Guidelines for Public Comments as adopted on December 10, 2013. Persons who desire to formally participate in the hearing pursuant to 4 CMC § 8409(j) of Public Law 15-35 should on or before March 14, 2014 file with the Commission at the law office of Lillian Tenorio, Esq. on Plata Dr. Chalan Kiya, Saipan [phone: 670-234-7850; email: latlaw@pticom.com] an application and offer of proof in accordance with said section and with Commission Procedural Rule 11(c).

Further information about the public hearing and the public's right to participate and comment may be obtained from Ms. Tenorio's office.

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USMC reps to meet with CNMI leaders



U.S. MARINE CORPS

House Speaker Joseph P. DeLeon Guerrero, far left, and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan pose for a photo with Marines during a January tour of the range complex at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., where they observed live-fire artillery training.

NCTS, Guam—Following-up on CNMI Joint Military Training briefings conducted in January, representatives of Marine Forces Pacific will return to Saipan this week for additional consultation with CNMI leaders and agencies.

The January briefings focused on the current status of the National Environmental Policy Act process for the proposed expanded military training activities on Tinian and Pagan. During the sessions, Marine Forces Pacific planners, highlighted how the public's input has already contributed to the refinement of the proposed activities and shaped the ongoing fieldwork and data collection.

This week's meetings, scheduled for three days, March 19 to March 21, will continue to cooperatively address and refine the study's alternatives on

mutual topics of concern identified in January, such as natural resources, landfill, access, and economics.

NEPA is the overarching law requiring DoD to consider and identify the environmental effects of the proposed expanded military training activities on Tinian and Pagan prior to a decision. The Draft EIS is anticipated to be released later this year followed by an opportunity for the public to comment. The final study will be completed over the next two years.

Questions regarding the CJMT EIS and other Marine Corps training or operations in the CNMI or Guam may be directed to Maj. Neal Fisher, Marine Corps Activity Guam, Public Affairs Officer, e-mail neal.fisher@fe.navy.mil, phone 671-355-2340. (*Marine Corps Activity Guam*)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Belated happy birthday to Neil Agulto! Hope you enjoyed your day and wishing you the greatest and many more to come! We love you! From your one and only Rose and our boboy Devon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy, happy birthday to a wonderful, great, hardworking, and devoted dad, papa, husband, uncle and brother, Joseph D. Jucutan! May the Good Lord continue to keep and bless you all the days of your Life! I hope you enjoy your special day. Greetings come from your friends and family.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Thirteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room in Bwughos Street, Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes
 - a. March 4, 2014 Special Board Meeting
- II. Public Comments
- III. Unfinished Business
- IV. New Business
- V. Executive Session
 1. Legal Updates
 2. Other matters
- VI. Administrative Matters
- VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting
- VIII. Adjournment

¹ Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

² Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold its ICC Meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2014, 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm at the Annex Room, Pacific Islands Club. This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Roles/Responsibilities of Members
 - b. By Laws
 - c. Part C of IDEA
- II. Coordinators Reports
 - a. Grant Application
 - b. APR
 - c. Child Find/Public Awareness Activities
 - d. EI Monthly Data

III. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print, sign language or interpreter, must call 237-3029/19. Several days' notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/ Margaret Aldan
Chairwoman

/S/ Robin L. Palacios
Interim Coordinator, Early Intervention Program

Paid for by IDEA, Part B Funds.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 17, 2006

'Let govt go into mining business'

The board chairman of the Commonwealth Development Authority urged the government yesterday to be directly involved in the mining and sale of mineral resources, particularly pozzolan, to reap optimal benefits, rather than relegate this rare opportunity to a profit-oriented middleman. "Why allow a third party? Here we have an opportunity to boost ourselves from being a Third World economy," said CDA board chair Tom Glenn A. Quitugua, referring to the economic potential of the reported 200 million metric tons deposit of pozzolan ash on Mt. Pagan in the Northern Islands. Pozzolan is a rare kind of volcanic ash that is used as a cement additive. Quitugua said the CNMI government, led by the Executive Branch, can link up directly with manufacturers of cement in mining pozzolan.

CNMI wants 'open-sky' authority for entry of foreign air carriers

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will petition the U.S. Department of Transportation to grant the CNMI blanket exemption authority to allow foreign carriers to freely fly to and from the CNMI—and boosts its competitiveness as a destination. CPA executive director Lee Cabrera said that pursuant to the "open sky" policy, the CNMI aims to see expanded air service to the CNMI from Asia and the Pacific region. It also wants "operational and marketing restrictions" for foreign air carries eliminated, and domestic and international air service integrated. Further, he said that part of the goals is to provide an opportunity in the CNMI for low-cost air carriers.

March 17, 2007

Lawmakers OK user fee cut

The Legislature has passed a bill reducing user fees to help the declining garment industry. The House of Representatives yesterday approved the amendments made by the Senate on House Bill 15-207, which was authored by Speaker Oscar M. Babauta. The bill will become law once the governor signs it. H.B. 15-207 would reduce the user fee assessed the garment industry when they export products. If the bill is enacted, the user fee will be 2.7 percent, from 3.7 percent, of the gross value of the merchandise.

Law on owning condo units clarified

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has signed into law a bill spelling out the rules for non-indigenous people owning condominiums in the Commonwealth. Senate Bill 15-66, now Public Law 15-49, is a follow-up legislation to P.L. 15-20, which removed the bar against people not of Northern Marianas descent from obtaining permanent or long-term interests in the CNMI. Both pieces of legislation were authored by Senate Vice President Pete P. Reyes. P.L. 15-49 clarifies that non-indigenous residents of the CNMI may purchase units above the first floor of a condominium building. In addition, the new law also authorizes a private landowner to enter into a new 55-year lease with a non-indigenous person upon creation of a condominium.

March 17, 2008

Indian delegation eyes joining LibDay parade

Saipan businessman Antony Glad said that a city in India has expressed interest in taking an active part in this year's month-long Liberation Day activities. Ahmedabad City Mayor Amit Shah shared with Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela his desire to visit Saipan later this year with a large group to participate in this year's Liberation Day activities that would begin in June 2008. Tudela paid a courtesy visit to the Ahmedabad City's only school for the deaf during a recent trip to India for the signing of a second sister-cities agreement.

Bennett to Fitial: Put politics aside

Former teacher representative Ambrose Bennett is asking Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to put politics aside and give his suggestions the "proper weight and volume it deserves in the best interest of the people of the CNMI." Bennett is requesting the governor to push for legislation that would create a "cultural curriculum" for two of the island's indigenous cultures "to assure that all history, traditions, customs, arts & crafts are preserved and capable of being taught to future generations." Bennett said there are millions in federal funding for a cultural curriculum that would make it easy for the CNMI to implement. "We just need to do our homework."

NMC students help remove invasive vines



MATTHEW CRANE
NMC students, from left to right, Jake Santos, Daniel Kaipat, Ohmar Nawaz, and Keoni Tudela, with Shelly Kremer of the Micronesica Bird Conservation.

Students from Northern Marianas College’s Environmental Conservation course spent some time with Shelly Kremer from the local nonprofit organization Micronesica Bird Conservation to remove invasive vines just down the hill from the college.

Students from the course focusing on pest management and invasive species joined Kremer to learn about the different invasive vines here on Saipan. It was a hands-on learning experience where students spent time in the jungle to control the spread of vines and rescue some trees.



Micronesica Bird Conservation is driven by their mission statement to preserve the integrity and diversity of the island’s avifauna. The agency does this through outreach and conservation; the latter is achieved via their Vine Busters group. Vine Busters

is a mix of MBC staff and volunteers wanting to make a difference in their environment. The invasive vines smother trees, killing them, and changing the landscape and ecosystem.

The partnership between NMC and MBC has been going on for over a year now and is one NMC is very excited to be taking part in.

“It would be great for NMC to have its ‘own patch’ that it takes care of and this spot just down Chalan Monsignor Guerrero from the college very well may be the spot,” said Matt Crane, NMC instructor. “Keep an eye out as you drive by this section of road on your way to or from campus and you will slowly see the efforts of these students paying off.”

Those who want to get involved can visit <http://www.micronesicabirdconservation.org/> to learn more. *(NMC)*



PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the “Open Government Act”, the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Special Education State Advisory Panel (SESAP), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold a Special Meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2014, 8:00am to 12:00pm at the Pacific Islands Club, Napu Room, San Antonio Saipan. This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome.

AGENDA

8:00am – 9:00am

Orientation – New Members

9:00am – 12:00pm



- Preliminary Matters**
 - Roll Call
 - Presence of a Quorum
 - Adoption of Agenda
- State Systemic Improvement Plan**
- Miscellaneous**
- Adjournment**

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters must call 237-3029. Several days notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/S/ Dexter Apatang
Chairperson

/S/ Suzanne W. Lizama
Director, Special Education Program

Paid for by IDEA, Part B Funds



Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
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Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

<p>MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff,</p> <p>vs.</p> <p>EDWARD SN. MUÑA, Defendant.</p>	<p>Civil Action No. 12-0275</p> <p>NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE</p>
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 24th day of May, 2013, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **11th day of April, 2014 at 10 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:



Lot/Tract No. 011 G 701, containing an area of 845 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 14, the original of which was recorded on December 3, 1993 as Document No. 93-4182 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

- 1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - c) to reject any and all bids.
- 2. Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
- 3. Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Marianas Public Land Trust.
- 4. Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- 5. Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED This 12th day of February, 2014.

/s/
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer



INVITATION FOR BIDS WATER TASK FORCE IFB14-GOV-059

Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, is soliciting sealed bids for the Agag Water System Well Field Isolation Part B in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Install approximately 6,255 lineal feet of 4", and 8" PVC waterline with appurtenant valves, fittings, flow meter, flush hydrants, air relief valves, and pressure reducing valves.
- Remove and dispose existing pipes at the Agag Booster Station.
- Various connections works at five (5) locations.
- Connect existing service laterals and water meters.
- Pressure testing and chlorination of new waterlines.
- Restore asphalt paving.
- Construction activity to not interrupt existing water service to the area.

A non-refundable payment of \$500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **February 17, 2014** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m.**, on **February 28, 2014**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on **February 27, 2014**.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3-301. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked **"IFB14-GOV-059"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 pm local time **March 19, 2014**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 pm local time **March 19, 2014**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 19, 2014**, and must be received no later than **March 28, 2014**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **March 28, 2014**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **March 19, 2014**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/Eloy S. Inos
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

INVITATION TO BID ITB14-GOV-066

Repainting of Government Buildings in Capitol Hill

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, are soliciting sealed bids for the Repainting of Government Buildings in Capitol Hill.

The project package will be available Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing **no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on March 7, 2014** to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia of the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB14-GOV-066"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, March 21, 2014**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **11:00 a.m. Saipan local time March 21, 2014**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 21, 2014** and must be received no later than **March 28, 2014**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m. Saipan local time, March 28, 2014**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **2:30 p.m. Saipan local time, on March 21, 2014**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P & S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable asset are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Government Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is sixty (60) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) one hundred dollars (**\$100.00**), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by sixty (60) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

How does an airliner vanish in this hyperconnected age?

In a world where rental car companies can track the location of their cars at any given moment, where we can turn a home alarm on or off from the seat of an airliner cruising at an altitude of 35,000 feet, the infuriating part of the mysterious disappearance of Malaysian Airlines Flight 370 is our technological powerlessness.

A week ago, the world lost contact with Flight 370. Despite the focus of intelligence agencies from the United States, China and Great Britain, despite satellites and dozens of the world's most advanced ships and airplanes trained on the search area, we know little more today than we did seven days ago.

Tuesday, reports that the Malaysian Air Force had picked up the plane on radar hundreds of miles to the west of its intended flight path raised hopes. But the Malaysian government quickly refuted the report. Wednesday, satellite images from the Chinese State Science and Technology Commission seemed to show debris. But upon searching, the Vietnamese navy found no debris, and the Chinese government said the satellite images were wrongly disseminated and inaccurate. Thursday, a report said Rolls-Royce, the plane's engine maker, had received data transmissions from the engine indicating it had operated for at least four hours after the plane's last radio transmission. But the Malaysian government denied the report.

In such a connected world, how could a 650,000-pound, 200-foot-long jet carrying 239 people simply vanish? And why, with live-streaming technology, are we still dependent on physically retrieving a black box that was cutting-edge technology more than 50 years ago?

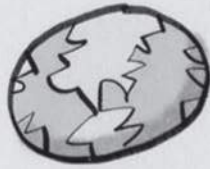
The technology is available to install a satellite-based data recording system that transmits key flight data to a safe, ground-based computer network that can be accessed immediately after a plane goes down. But so far, there has been a lack of will—and money—to implement such a system. Some experts estimate it could cost \$100,000 to \$1 million per plane to install. American Airlines and American Eagle alone have 850 planes in their fleet. Considering how rare it is for a plane to simply disappear like Flight 370, it becomes a matter of cost vs. benefit.

But what's the cost of the massive search under way? The cost of the airlines' financial liability? The cost of so many lives potentially lost? If airlines can provide Wi-Fi for \$8 per passenger, they should be able to figure out a way to fund a safer system that is affordable.

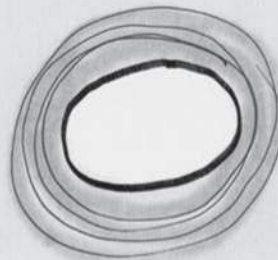
The airline industry should seriously explore moving toward a technological upgrade. It might not provide all the answers, but it certainly will speed up the search, ease the suffering of bereaved families and yield potentially crucial data about airliner defects.

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A SUPERNATURAL
BEING CREATES
THE EARTH...



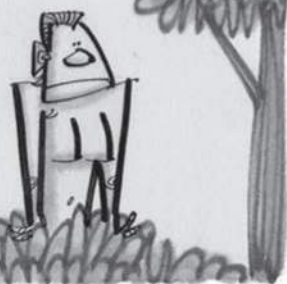
AND
THEN THE
SUN...



AND EVERY
LIVING
CREATURE...



AND MAN, THEN
USING THE MAN'S
RIB...



CREATES
A
WOMAN...



THEN NEEDS A REST
EVEN THOUGH HE'S
SUPERNATURAL.



BUT EVOLUTION'S IMPOSSIBLE.

The Ides of March

The Ides of March for me at Shenyang Aerospace University was actually my last day as a resident on campus. This was the third time I set a date that was not implemented, the first and second times when admin folks tried to find a way around the age issue. They did not find one. I gave them "A" for the effort.

For those who had not caught a previous telling of why we are no longer formally teaching, here's a recap. I planned two more years on polishing our pedagogy on *englisCHe*, English with Chinese characteristics with my capitalized CH on the Dutch spelling, but when the university submitted my signed contract and a request for an extension of my annual working visa to the Foreign Affairs office, it was denied. I was affected by the current push by government to go by the book, and it clearly states that foreign teachers were not going to be older than 65. I am three going four bends on the river past the waterfront on that one. So I retired.

I offered to be an available resource as an *emeritus* with no salary and remain resident at the Friendship Villa where I was staying but unless I had a working visa, the admin had their hands tied. Since I previously held a resident visa and had just gotten another one good until my passport expires, I thought the school might find a way to retain my services. I was told that they can use my services but I could not remain a resident at the university housing.

But I am delighted to be off the 11th floor. Last year, tectonic plates shook us twice in Shenyang, a first in 35 years. I have offered the explanation that perhaps the warming of the polar caps had been adding more fluid into the ocean floor, loosening nooks and crannies on the tectonic plates. My experience at being shaken on the 11th floor of the university housing was not one of my more pleasant days in *Dong Bei*.

To be on the second floor of a community with the din of children playing in the playground, even in the cold of spring (yes, Marushka, we are supposed to be getting warmer into summer but folks are still wearing scarves), I am in a different setting than the antiseptic surroundings of the International Center at the Friendship Villa of the university. I could see off my front window (I face south so we are good on the *feng shui*) into the neglected playground and the unpicked garbage piling up at every corner. My summer is really cut out for me as I will have to find colleagues who will come out either in the morning or late afternoon to sweep the commons clean. From previous experience, I do not think this will be difficult as folks naturally do that when someone takes the lead.

Of course, I will have to start with the stairs to my floor, which could use a broom and a scraper to get off all the flyers that had been pasted on the wall, a rather unfortunate but common practice,

By **JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



and a coat of paint over the bold telephone numbers of folks hawking this or the other. In my neighborhood, my building is a fourth generation, the oldest within 10 square blocks in my community, still pricey for my pocketbook but only two blocks to the subway, so I do not mind.

On cleaning up the commons. One of the delights I had on my last day at school was the absence of pasted ads outside my building, the four-story cafeteria building, the south shopping center, and two of the dorms. It was my habit to carry a scraper and took off ads on my way to and from classes that were posted where they were not meant to be. I started with the bulletin boards. It used to be a battle of wills as folks replaced ads as fast as I can remove them. It is now into the third week of the semester and I noticed that the shopkeepers themselves keep the outside of the shopping mall clean.

One of the groundskeepers last semester stopped me and showed me his scraper, not a standard issue from the repertoire of tools from the university. The bulletin board by the soccer field had not had a misplaced ad since. I will visit the campus once a week to check if the buildings on my regular route stay ad-free! Conversely, I hope that my neighborhood will be a bit tidier and cleaner by the end of the summer and I shall not be the only one with a broom.

Now, to the ides of March. Shakespeare's "*Beware the ides of March*" uttered to Julius Caesar in the play by his name, is an ominous one, and Octavian who ushered the Roman Empire as Augustus Caesar sacrificed (more like slaughtered) 300 senators to the newly deified Julius five years later in revenge of his uncle, so the foreboding sense of danger has been attached to the phrase. In the earlier Roman calendar, however, March is the first month of the year, and the ides (from the 13th to the 15th) was the transition days between the end of the two-week celebration and the reality of a new calendar year itself. Thus it was more of an auspicious beginning rather than the Shakespearean meaning we know of today.

Obviously, my ides of March is of the second kind. I face a new beginning. The word for me is not the "ides" but of the "march," a foot forward one step at a time. Right on!

Cultural spirit vs change

We have dealt with the difficult challenges of change that has soundly sent us reeling for sanity. Modern distractions leave us struggling to sift through it all. Fortunately, we've endured each storm, tethered strongly to our ancestral heritage.

We've weathered change head on or via adaptation—some good, some bad, and some sturdy in spite of it all. As changes occur, I quiz in quietude if the shifts aren't simply eroding rather than edifying (improving) our way of life? I get a mixed bag on this score. But it's all part and whole of social growth and development in what's now a multicultural society.

Though every colonial ruler tried to crush our native tongue, none was successful. Our ancestors adapted submissiveness for purposes of survival, whispering their way in Chamorro through thick and thin. That's the ancestral journey of our local vernacular retained by our ancestors even in submission.

Be that as it may, it's unsettling watching our young people drift from tradition, specifically their indigenous values from what's a part of them since birth. Slow the disconnect may be but like silent water rolling down the mountainside, it eventually erodes everything in its way.

Hopefully, the resurgence of indigenous issues would revive and restore the relationship we've had with our cultural tradition. It would be refreshing to see young folks promote everything from language to strengthening such social virtues as respect and the culture of responsibility.

It's healthy to have personal knowledge of our long journey since four centuries ago. It brings home that sense of belonging that makes us whole and unique as a people. It is the spirit and sense of communal sharing that have served as pillars and foundation of our traditional heritage. It is our cultural spirit grounded in the tradition of responsibility that allows for harmony and the perpetuation of our peoplehood at peace with ourselves.

It's all about understanding and appreciating our traditional history and conscious perception and vision of what lies ahead. With a strong anchor, we could resolutely define our future in spite of the demands of modernity. It's about proactively engaging and partici-

pating in paddling and navigating our canoe of hope forward. It's about reviving that unmatched sense of community that cements a journey in unity.

Derailing the demands of change may be, we are known for our resiliency and ability to reset our buttons come hell or high water. Let's join hands for the journey has just begun. It boils down to our participation from A-Z.

Indigenous heritage

Since our ancestral days, islanders had only two things in their possession upon which was founded their cultural tradition: Land and sea.

We had an agrarian island community where we cultivated the soil and planted staple food, fruits, veggies and raise farm animals for sustenance. It was in family gardens, savannas, and shores where our ancestors sweated, even spilled blood to protect the future of posterity.

Their spirit is anchored in the land of these isles they guarded through centuries so we too could walk, cultivate, and protect them for our own children. It is this very spirit and relationship with our land that is difficult for non-islanders to understand. Nor is there any sense of empathy to acknowledge that it's the only two assets we've had since time immemorial. Interesting the courage among us who have the gall to push for its complete abolition.

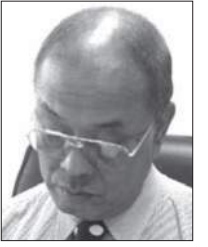
Must we now trash the very heritage of the indigenous people because we've learned via the Bill of Rights what it declares as a matter of right? Would not this raw attitude create a void forcing our children to yearn for that missing spiritual link trashed by their elders? Shouldn't this alienating attitude be transcended in the interest of our children who equally deserve growth tethered to what they are since our ancestral days? Would not this be the most egregious thing we could do against the heritage they should cling to as a matter of ancestry?

Some say it's unconstitutional. Whose definition should we use in this instance? Didn't Uncle Sam grant our Native American brothers and sisters their right to own their land

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



and limit ownership to their own people? Would not this fit the definition unconstitutional too? So what's so egregiously wrong leaving landownership to fellow Americans who hail from an archipelago? Unless the right of Native Americans on land is changed in the name of full equality, Article 12 remains constitutional.

Of cultural spirit

I broached the issue of cultural spirit and responsibility if only to tickle your mind as we promote discussion amongst ourselves on the essence of our people. The former basically deals with home and would I still have intimate attachment to it down the stretch. The latter is one that we learn from our folks growing up.

It is here where I was born, grew up until I took my place in the community. It is along the shore, savannas, dusty roads, and rows of plants where my hard-earned sweat fell and dried off. It turns into a part of the soil downstairs where I buried and harvested bananas, taro, yam, sweet potato, and other plants for sustenance. It eventually disappears like morning dew when the sun beams down at mid-day. But my spirit rests peacefully in the dirt of sustenance we've cultivated for many years.

I struggle to understand the changes throughout the years. Concrete buildings now replace the land that once was the center of family sustenance. A huge warehouse now occupies the rich history of the land in CK where our roots were planted then destroyed about two decades ago. It's gone! Has our precious value system changed as to ignore our cultural spirit?

Confusing compromise and surrender in the Crimean referendum

It is widely assumed, and it will probably be the case, that the Crimean referendum will provide Russia with the formal vote for the peninsula to join Russia as a subject of the Russian Federation. Yet there is also the distinct possibility that the Russian-controlled referendum might have Crimeans "opting" for the second question, which calls for the "restoration of the 1992 Crimean Constitution (and) Crimea's status as part of Ukraine." Though choosing the latter option might generate sighs of relief in Western capitals under the belief that annexation has been avoided, in fact such an outcome may turn out to be just as deleterious and dangerous not only for Ukraine but also for the international community and for international law.

Why would Russia possibly settle for Question 2? In light of Vladimir Putin's brazen actions in Crimea and blatant threats against Ukraine, it is easy to miss the Russian leader's desire to nonetheless seek a Soviet-style legal justification for his 19th-century Russian imperialist goals.

Attempting to camouflage a process of ongoing annexation at gunpoint, the Kremlin has claimed inter alia that President Viktor Yanukovich had requested an armed intervention, that Russia was protecting Russian citizens, that it was safeguarding ethnic Russians in Crimea, and that it was essentially relying on the doctrine of humanitarian intervention.

None of these legal justifications proved to have any traction. Yanukovich could not authorize intervention after he lost effective control and fled ignominiously. The rescue doctrine cannot apply here when Russia would declare Ukrainian citizens in Crimea as Russian nationals primarily in order to rescue them through the use of force. Protecting ethnic minorities abroad, (Russians in Crimea),

is the duty of Kiev and not Moscow. In terms of humanitarian intervention, the requisite exceptional circumstances that involve a great humanitarian emergency do not apply to Crimea, but for the artificial crisis created by the Kremlin.

How could Putin then "cure" this legal problem when the democratic West rejects Russian's actions and plans? Approval of Question 2 could well be the solution, particularly if it could be massaged politically where the West might be induced to accept the restoration of the 1992 Crimean Constitution as a compromise that avoids violent military action and seemingly forestalls annexation.

Yet the history of the 1992 Constitution is disturbing. It was approved in May 1992 during a time of tremendous turmoil and manipulation. As a "sovereign state," Crimea would be entering into relations with Ukraine on a voluntary basis and would define its relations through mutually coordinated acts and agreements. In short, the 1992 Constitution provided a very easily traversed antechamber to full independence and a primary reason it was soon replaced. Moreover, that territorial integrity was powerfully reinforced in international law through the Budapest memorandum of 1994 that gave security guarantees to Ukraine over its entire territory in part in exchange for Kiev's willingness to have nuclear weapons removed, and through the 1997 agreement on the stationing of Russia's Black Sea Fleet in Crimean ports.

Moscow though, should it succeed in restoring the discredited 1992 Constitution, might not opt for quick annexation. Instead, it could press for a similar status for eastern and southern Ukraine, which have large numbers of Russian speakers and continue to use the threat of annexation to cause such instability in Ukraine as to paralyze the ability of any government in Kiev to bring in the nec-

By AUREL BRAUN

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Aurel Braun is a visiting professor in the Department of Government at Harvard University. He is also professor of International Relations and Political Science at the University of Toronto.



essary economic and political reforms that would make the country into a modern democratic state and integrate it into the European and international economy. Putin, it seems, has no intention of allowing Europe to come to Ukraine and for the Maidan revolution to come to Russia.

The referendum's Question 2 would only work if the democratic West compromises on its firm promises to Ukraine, and here Putin may be counting on Western fecklessness. It is true that the democratic world would need to make painful economic sacrifices if it is to implement effective political and economic sanctions against Russia. Such sanctions are very doable, however, because Russia is truly vulnerable.

Such sanctions may well have a salutary effect. They would impress on Putin the need for a reality check, the foolishness of his imperial pretensions and the necessity to focus on the Russian Federation and build that vast country into a modern state that respects the dignity of its own citizens. That would be the best outcome not only for Ukraine and the international community but also for Russia itself.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Why does the Legislature keep pushing the casino bill?

I would like to know why the Legislature is pushing the casino bill again. I thought that it was put to sleep, never to be awakened again. The article on Friday's edition just didn't sit right with me. I read the article about three times and I didn't read anywhere any explanation as to why to have the casino bill out. To those HR or lawmaker who wants to governor to pass the bill, what are your reasons? I would like to know why you're pushing the bill. Do you have an economic impact report that can be presented to the people of Saipan to explain why they should vote yes to this bill? So far that I have read is that you want the governor to sign it already. When push comes to shove, the people of Saipan will have their say.

I have been doing my own research on the pros and cons of ca-

sino gaming in communities. Some communities thrive, while others don't. Some businesses will stay afloat, while others will either go bankrupt or close their business because of the casino taking the customers. What would you do if the locals don't want to work in the casinos? What would a business do? Hire outside help? Where does that help the community? It will still leave others in poverty. It may not be that a person doesn't want to work, but maybe that person or people don't want to be associated with the gambling community. Gambling is addictive when not carefully monitored. I've bookmarked a lot of websites. So if you want to sit down with me and talk about my findings, just let me know. I will be waiting and waiting.

Will Saipan be any different?? I would like to see what you have

projected that you want this bill to succeed? In order to sway the people, don't leave them out. Did some of you forget who got you that chair that you sit on? You didn't get it by yourself. You got the people's trust, so don't blow it. Let the people decide and if it goes through, then you're lucky. But if it goes south, take your punches as you get it and let this bill sleep in peace.

Thumbs up to those who said to put the bill out to the people. That means you put your trust in the people who put you there, like they did for you. Thumbs up again.






Judith Castro

As Matuis, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Rain	▲83 ▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲81 ▼79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲81 ▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲81 ▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲81 ▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲81 ▼79
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲84 ▼80

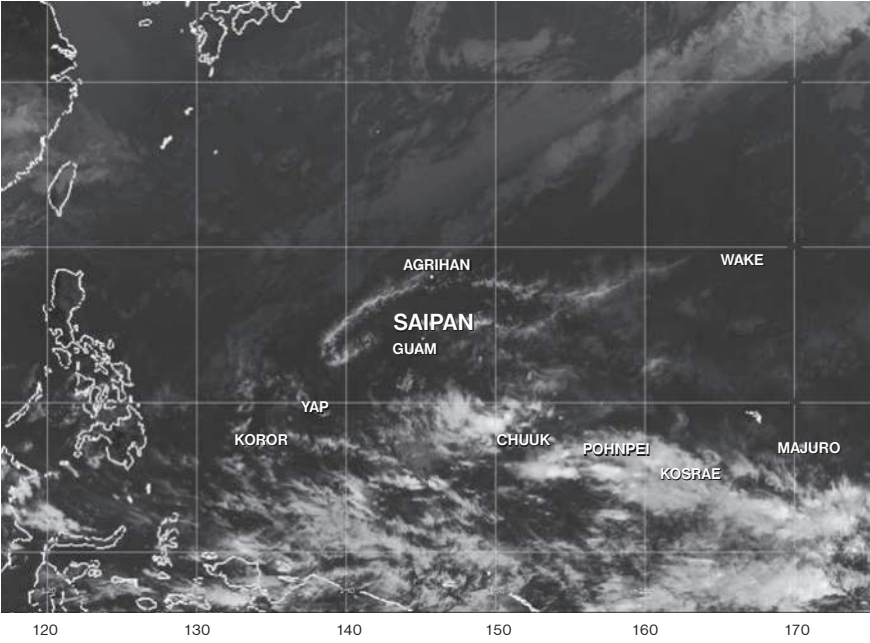
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲72 ▼59
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲68 ▼39
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲71 ▼64
Honolulu	Windy	▲74 ▼68
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲58 ▼43
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲88 ▼59
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲89 ▼74
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲72 ▼56
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲80 ▼73
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲42 ▼24
Osaka	Sunny	▲60 ▼44
Paris	Cloudy	▲59 ▼45
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲58 ▼53
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲65 ▼46
Salem	Cloudy	▲61 ▼41
San Francisco	Sunny	▲72 ▼52
Seoul	Showers	▲64 ▼46
Tokyo	Sunny	▲56 ▼46
Washington, DC	Showers	▲48 ▼28

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:12 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet	
9:12 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
3:33 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet	
9:22 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends southwestward from north of Minami Tori Shima at 25N154E to 10N130E. Cloudiness and rain are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of this boundary. A weak tropical disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Chuuk within 130 miles of a line from 8N146E to 8N152E and south of Koror south of a line from 6N134E to 4N143E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Pohnpei and Kosrae but south of Kwajalein and Majuro within 160 miles of a line from 6N157E to 2N165E to 3N180E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Tuesday	6:23 AM	6:28 PM
Wednesday	6:22 AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:22 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:21 AM	6:28 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:54 PM	6:25 AM
Tuesday	7:45 PM	7:06 AM
Wednesday	8:37 PM	7:48 AM
Thursday	9:32 PM	8:33 AM
Friday	10:27 PM	9:21 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29) DZ104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN DZ101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily DZ103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:00am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:20pm 3:00am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:00am 10:55pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:45am 1:30am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 7 via Guam UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-TIANJIN (TSN) D2884 10:45am 2:45pm Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24	TIANJIN (TSN)-SAIPAN D2885 4:45pm 12:20am+1 Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) D2880 4:30pm 8:00pm Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27	HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN D2881 10:00pm 5:15am+1 Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27
SAIPAN-WUHAN (WUH) D2882 11:00am 3:15pm Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26	WUHAN (WUH)-SAIPAN D2883 5:15pm 12:20am+1 Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Liberation Day, Battle of Saipan's 70th anniversary merge

All roads lead to Saipan in June as the CNMI celebrates Liberation Day and the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Saipan and Tinian.

Both Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores and 70th Anniversary committee chair Vicente "Ben" Camacho have agreed to combine the two events.

The two-week-long celebration kicks off on June 6 and cul-

minates in the parade on June 15. The 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Saipan and Tinian will pay tribute to the veterans, both Japanese and Americans, as well as World War II survivors in a special ceremony to be held at the American Memorial Park on June 15. Tinian will hold its ceremony on June 12.

"It will be a celebration of decades of efforts to promote

peace and camaraderie between former World War II enemies," said Camacho. Our theme is "Reunion of Honor".

Saipan traditionally holds Liberation Day on the Fourth of July coinciding with the U.S. Independence Day.

"I asked Mayor Donald Flores to make an exception this year so we could coordinate the activities of both Liberation

Day and the 70th Anniversary," said Camacho.

The invasion of Saipan began on June 15 two days following two days of bombardment by 15 battleships.

"The Marines took the lead in the invasion with 8,000 of them on the beaches west of Saipan on June 15," said Camacho.

Camacho told the mayor that it would be more cost-effective

to hold the two events together.

"It makes sense that we combine the two events. I join chairman Ben in encouraging the members of our community to take part in this historic occasion," said Flores.

Although the two events will be merged, Flores and Camacho agreed that there will still be a celebration on the Fourth of July.

Flores also looks forward to having the visiting World War II veterans and their families on Saipan.

"That is something to celebrate—70 years of the Battle of Saipan. But that is not undermining the celebration of Liberation Day. It is the same event that we would like to join. We'll support it as much

as we can," said Flores.

He also said his office will coordinate with the Committee as they prepare to synchronize their planned activities.

For those interested to participate in the search for Liberation Queen, or join in the Best Float contest in the parade, entertainment, or as vendors at the festival grounds, contact the Office of the Mayor at 234-6208.

Tour companies and World War II aficionados may contact 70th Anniversary committee chair Vicente Ben Camacho at vicente.camacho@gov.mp.

For more information on these events, call the Marianas Visitors Authority at 664-3200. (*70th Anniversary of the Battle of Saipan Organizing Committee*)

Call for EPLD applications

The third Emerging Pacific Leaders' Dialogue is an intensive development program for future leaders scheduled to take place across the Pacific region over a continuous two-week period from Oct. 16, 2014.

This follows the successful staging of the inaugural EPLD in 2006 and the second in 2010 that each brought together around 125 future leaders from 22 Pacific region nations and territories including Australia and New Zealand. For EPLD 2006 and 2010, the average age of selected participants was 35 years.

EPLD 2014 is an important regional leadership development initiative that is funded and sponsored by government agencies and the private sector across the Pacific—particularly with strong support of the public and private sectors in Australia and New Zealand.

For 2014, it is planned to select up to 130 high caliber mid-career participants through an open and public application process. Applicants will be drawn from business, government, trade unions, education, and the community service sector including NGOs. Gender balance is expected to be achieved. All main areas of expenses includ-

ing air travel, accommodation and meals are met by the conference organizers. Successful applicants meet their own incidental in room costs including laundry, phone, Internet etc

The Opening Plenary sessions of the third EPLD will take place in Noumea, New Caledonia, and the Closing Plenary sessions will be held in Port Vila, Vanuatu—each over two days. The middle week and weekends of the EPLD will be devoted to a maximum of 10 thought provoking and intel-

lectually challenging study tour programs for widely representative groups each comprising 12 to 13 participants. Separate study tour groups will each visit different Pacific region locations including Australia and New Zealand focusing on leadership and community development initiatives.

The theme of the EPLD2014 is again "Navigating our Future Together" and all aspects of the conference will focus on the significance of leadership in the context of relevant sub-themes. These include economic and social development; regional

cooperation and infrastructure; good governance; security, stability and strengthening communities; the environment; business and industry, as well as education and health.

Further information on this important leadership initiative is available on the EPLD website www.epld.net. Applications are now open and on line applications can be made via our website—click on the "Applications" button to access the application form.

Applications are currently scheduled close at the end of March 2014. (*PR*)



PILE OF GARBAGE

This is how some parts of Saipan's tourist district look. This photo was taken by the photographer Thursday night when he parked behind the old Chamorro House restaurant near Hanamitsu Hotel. This pile of trash is in plain view from the street.

RON MUNA

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 14-006

Opening Date: Monday, March 17, 2014
Closing Date: Monday, March 31, 2014

Trades Assistant

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the division manager of Power Division or his/her designee. Assisting in installing power lines and other related power distribution equipment; Assisting with maintaining and repairing de-energized lines up to 13,800 volts and other electrical apparatus; Assisting in performing tree trimming activities; Assisting in preparing daily reports; Assisting in operating equipment; Assisting in performing power disconnections and reconnections; Inventorying materials and supplies. Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in service area assigned. Performs preventative maintenance on equipment in service area assigned. Assists with various construction related duties in service area assigned. Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies. Cleans up, gathers and puts away equipment, materials and supplies for activities/projects. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

LOCATION: Power Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: \$12,263.00 per annum - \$20,639.33 per annum.

CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

POSITION(S): Six (6)

Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma, or G.E.D. or A.B.E. Knowledge of: Basic preventative maintenance principles; Basic mathematics. Skills in: Performing preventative maintenance; Performing basic maintenance; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must be able to climb 50 ft. power pole. Must have a CNMI driver's license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants may be tested AND subject to pre-employment drug testing.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office. CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 14-005

Opening Date: Monday, March 17, 2014
Closing Date: Monday, March 31, 2014

Junior Engineer

Duties: Work under the direct supervision of the division manager or his/her designee. Designs electric and distribution and oversees the completion of assigned tasks. Executes and coordinates portions of assigned projects and tasks; adhere to applicable specifications and standards. Manage assigned aspects of electric and distribution projects. Perform construction inspection. Support operations with technical assistance; collect, maintain, and organize operational data for engineering analysis. Maintain project files; prepare related correspondence. Prepare design calculations, engineering drawings, and sketches. Draft parts of a variety of engineering reports and correspondence. Assist with data collection, troubleshooting and equipment analysis; evaluate electric and distribution system needs and perform engineering analysis. Perform research for design, efficiency improvement, and operations support. Perform other duties of a similar nature or level.

LOCATION(S): Power Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: \$30,000.00 per annum - \$40,000.00 per annum.

CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

POSITION(S): One (1).

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering degree. Knowledge of and ability to use AutoCAD and GIS is preferred but not required. **Knowledge of:** Engineering principles and practices; mathematical, pumping and hydraulics, and transmission and distribution concepts. Knowledge of and skill with GIS is preferred but not required. **Skill in:** organizing, collecting information and evaluating data; preparing and presenting technical information for reports and/or documentation; estimating construction costs; conducting studies. Able to: read and understand construction drawings; able to read and interpret specifications; use computers and related software applications; communicate; interact with co-workers, supervisor, and contractors to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a CNMI driver's license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants may be tested AND are subject to pre-employment drug testing.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office. CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 14-004

Date: Monday, March 17, 2014
Closing Date: Until Filled

Senior Engineer

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the division manager or his/her designee. Supervises engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs project management activities to include: preparing reports, memorandums and recommendations; developing scope of work; providing technical reviews; surveying for projects; evaluating proposals; monitoring project process; approving payment; and, recommending award of projects. Prepares engineering designs, plans and specifications; collects data and performs research. Troubleshoots systems and equipment. Reviews work performed by engineering technicians. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

LOCATION: Power Division, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: \$65,000.00 per annum - \$92,030.00 per annum.

CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

POSITION(S): One (1)

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering and four years of progressively responsible engineering related experience in transmission and distribution. PE license from a U.S. jurisdiction in Electrical Engineering required. **Knowledge of:** Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Construction principles; Engineering principles and practices. **Skills in:** Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a CNMI driver's license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants may be tested AND subject to pre-employment drug testing.

RELOCATION EXPENSES:

If hired from outside the CNMI, not to exceed \$10,000.00 for relocation to Saipan and not to exceed \$5,000.00 for relocation away from Saipan. Other conditions may be applicable.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:

To apply, please submit a resume, cover letter and a list of references by one the following means:

- United States Postal Service*:
Human Resource Office
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P. O. Box 501220
Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA

*If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" email "or" drop off your package.

- Fax: 670-235-5131

- Drop Off:
Drop off your package to the Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

POLICIES:

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate any discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.

It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

25 members of Guam Air Nat'l Guard arrive tonight



Guam airmen pose in front of a B-1 bomber, one of the assets they were assigned to protect.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GUAM—Twenty-five members of the Guam Air National Guard's 254th Security Forces Squadron are slated to arrive in Guam tonight, March 17.

The 31-member team was officially activated in July 2013 and departed a month later for Al Udeid, AB, Qatar. They were tasked to support the Air Force's Air and Space Expeditionary

Force mission in Southwest Asia. This tasking falls under the Air Force Central Command where the Airmen were primarily focused on the provision of base defense measures, inclusive of personnel and resource security.

Members of the 254th SFS have deployed six times in support of Operation Endur-

ing Freedom. Twelve of the arriving airmen were part of the team involved in the transition of security responsibilities to Iraqi Forces toward the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

While deployed, Team Guam received many accolades including:

■ SSgt Casey Morrison: coined by Secretary of De-

fense Chuck Hagel and named Hard Charger of the Month (October 2013)

■ TSgt James Santos: coined by the AF Central Command's Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Robert Sealey

■ MSgt Maria Quitugua: Senior Noncommissioned of the Month (February 2014)

■ TSgt James Santos: NCO

of the Month (November 2013)

■ TSgt Rewi Caron: Ground Safety Award of Distinction (November 2013)

■ Coined by the Squadron Commander: MSgt Richard Flores, MSgt Jerry Hinkle, TSgt Oscar Espinosa, TSgt James Santos, SSgt Jessica Cruz, SSgt Mark Mendiola, SSgt Mark Sablan, SrA Anthony Toves

■ Capt. Alvin Alvarez: 379 AEW Company Grade Officer of the Quarter (October thru December 2013)

Their reputation for the island-style cooking inspired the Company Grade Officers Council to sponsor a farewell gathering, as long as the Guam troops were in charge of the barbecue! (PR)

Naval Base Guam kicks off Chamorro Month

By JOANNA DELFIN

JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SANTA RITA, Guam—Service members, base patrons, and members from the military and local communities gathered to celebrate Chamorro Month at the Navy Exchange Guam main complex on U.S. Naval Base

Guam on March 13.

Chamorro Month is commemorated annually in March and celebrates Guam's culture, heritage and people.

"We have to recognize that we're in a place with a unique culture," said NBG commanding officer Capt. Mike Ward. "We occupy an installation

today doing a very important mission but it's very important to recognize the history and culture that surrounds us. It's unique to celebrate events like this to bring the attention to everybody that's here on island, not only the active-duty military but the family members in the community as well."

Ward expressed his gratitude to NEX Guam, Fleet and Family Support Center Guam, Agat Mayor Carol Tayama, Agat Vice Mayor Agustin Quintanilla and staff for organizing the event, which featured a traditional Chamorro hut, a farmer's market, cultural weaving and floral arrangements.

"We don't stay on the base; we go out and live, work and shop in the community," Ward said. "When we do that and we allow the folks to come

on the base for special events like this, we foster those better relationships and trusts and understanding so we can enable our mission here but still continue to support the community and acknowledge and respect the culture that is part of Guam."

NEX Guam and FFSC have partnered to organize and host the event since its inception in 2009 and continue to promote Guam's culture and heritage with the event.

"I think it's something that holds a lot of value, to understand that history and what's

happened in that period of time and that's what we're hosting here," said NEX Guam District Manager Phil Harrison. "I think that everyone that walks through will learn something from that and have a deeper appreciation for it."

The Chamorro hut will be on display at the NEX Guam main complex and patrons can take part in various events including storytelling, food sampling and Guam jewelry-making throughout the month of March.

For more information about NEX Guam Chamorro Month events, call 564-3179.



U.S. NAVY/JOANNA DELFIN

Service members and base patrons look at different Guam fruits and vegetables on display during a Chamorro Month celebration at the Navy Exchange Guam main complex on U.S. Naval Base Guam on March 13. Members from the local and military communities gathered to celebrate the island's culture, heritage, and people.



U.S. NAVY/JOANNA DELFIN

U.S. Naval Base Guam commanding officer Capt. Mike Ward delivers remarks during a Chamorro Month celebration at the Navy Exchange Guam main complex on the base on March 13.



Hydroponic garden opens in Kagman

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, third from right, and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), right, lead the cutting of the ceremonial ribbon to open a state-of-the-art hydroponic greenhouse in Kagman on Friday afternoon. Frank C. Castro, center, owns the hydroponic garden. From left, House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold I. Palacios, Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan, Castro, Inos, Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio, and Sablan.

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For 76-year-old Frank C. Castro, it's never too late for any cherished dream to come true and he proved that with the official opening of his state-of-the-art hydroponic greenhouse in Kagman on Friday afternoon. Even before his first major harvest, a major hotel has already bought all the cucumbers that, along with tomatoes, are being grown without pesticide or any chemical and are thus healthier and safer for humans.

"I feel like 50 years old and yes, dreams can still come true even when you're over 50," Castro told *Saipan Tribune*, after giving dignitaries and community members a tour of his 30x128-ft. Quonset greenhouse.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold I. Palacios, Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio, and Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan joined Castro in cutting the ceremonial ribbon for the hydroponic greenhouse that offers 3,840 plant spaces.

Hydroponics is basically gardening under carefully controlled conditions without using soil, fertilizer, pesticide, or other chemicals, making the harvest much healthier. The vegetables and fruits also grow much faster by 25 to 200 percent than normal gardening.

"We are very excited about this project and we look forward to sharing our produce with the community in the next few weeks. This is a modern way of farming that promotes healthy living," Castro told the crowd. The hydroponic greenhouse uses an iGrow 1400 controller.

The hydroponic greenhouse ribbon cutting came some months after the Oct. 30 groundbreaking. At the tour of the facility, visitors also got to taste samples of the cucumbers straight from the garden. Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar, in sampling the cucumbers, said it tasted "sweet and crunchy."

Castro, who still works at his 8-acre farm in Kagman, hopes to revolutionize the CNMI's agriculture industry by planting crops in a safer and more responsible manner. He also hopes that his hydroponic gardens will become a source of education for farmers, students,

and other community members.

He plans to build two more greenhouses for lettuces, bell peppers, and eggplants.

"PIC [Pacific Islands Club] hotel is already buying all the cucumbers. The tomatoes are not yet ready," Castro said in an interview. Also at the ribbon cutting were representatives of

Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The Castro family said they are trying to partner with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service "to make our hydroponic [garden] solar-powered."

Castro owns Castro's Fruit & Vegetable Farms. He has

been farming since he was a little boy, when he would tag along with his father to the farm. Castro is married to Julie and they have four children: Jessica, Frances, Vicky, and Jovie.

DLNR Secretary Palacios said the department will continue to support the Castro

family in its hydroponic farming endeavor.

"As you know, this is part of the Kagman commercial farm plots. Since last year, we're hopeful that it's going to be a successful project and it is," Palacios said. "It shows that this project can be done in the CNMI."



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), foreground, and Bureau of Environment and Coastal Quality administrator Frank Rabauli-man tour the 30x128-ft. Quonset greenhouse during Friday's ribbon cutting for the Castro family's hydroponic garden.

UOG Endowment Foundation to host Chamorro Music Concert on March 29

As part of the culmination of Chamorro Month, the University of Guam Endowment Foundation, in partnership with Bank of Guam, Docomo Pacific, Guam Visitors Bureau, and Jones & Guerrero Company, Inc., brings you a musical extravaganza saluting the pioneers of Chamorro music.

On March 29, 2014, "Lina'la-ta" (*This is our life*) A Musical Odyssey will highlight nine Chamorro artists, composers, and songwriters and will feature a live band; storytelling with prominent island personalities; and performances designed to both entertain and educate the audi-

ence in the history of Guam's talented musical artists. A special tribute will highlight four additional artists, who will be honored for their contribution to Guam's musical heritage.

This multimedia production will feature live performances as well as video and is designed to appeal to those who appreci-

ate conventional shows and to stimulate the senses of those who are drawn to a more technically designed production. The presentation will not only give recognition to the forerunners in Chamorro music, but also hopes to encourage younger generations in their musical endeavors.

Jesse Leon Guerrero, chair-

man, UOG Endowment Foundation board and former governor Joseph Ada, event chair, wanted to raise funds for UOG and promote and celebrate Guam's Chamorro Heritage at the same time. *Lina'la-ta* A Musical Odyssey provides this opportunity.

"We are featuring the past and

celebrating the future of our rich Chamorro music and culture," said Mark Mendiola, UOG Endowment Foundation executive director. "A portion of the proceeds will benefit the UOG 60th Anniversary Capital Campaign, which will help build a 21st century University of Guam campus." (*UOG*)

Business

Obama says health care program stable

WASHINGTON (AP)—Despite a disastrous start and relentless Republican opposition, President Barack Obama said Friday that enrollment in his signature health care program is high enough to make it stable for the millions who have signed up.

“We look forward to seeing more and more people take advantage as some of the politics of the thing get drained away, as people start feeling more confident about the website,” the president told WebMD in his latest, less-than-conventional attempt to spread the gospel about the law known by his name.

The president’s remarks were made public as House Republicans held the 51st vote in 38 months to repeal or undermine the law, and the first since they won a fiercely contested election for a House seat in Florida this week in a race that featured health care as an issue. The measure calls for a delay in imposing penalties on individuals who fail to purchase health care under the law.

The vote was 238-181, with all Republicans in favor and all but a dozen Democrats opposed. The bill faces certain death in the Democratic-con-

trolled Senate.

In addition to attacking the president’s health care law, the legislation would overhaul the system for paying doctors and others who treat Medicare patients. By itself, the makeover in the payment system enjoys widespread support among lawmakers in both parties as well as from medical organizations. It is designed to end a cycle of uncertainty that has periodically threatened providers with abrupt cuts in their reimbursements.

Without action by Congress, for example, the fees paid to health professionals who treat Medicare patients is scheduled to drop by 24 percent on March 31.

Yet the decision by Republicans to combine the change in the payment system with a delay in the penalty for failing to purchase health care meant that even the American Medical Association backed away from the bill. In a statement after the vote, the organization that lobbies on behalf of doctors said it intends to continue working toward legislation that both Congress and Obama could accept.

The political backdrop was unmistakable as Republicans pressed ahead on an issue

they hope to ride to a takeover of the Senate and continued control of the House in November.

Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California, the Democratic leader, said opposition to the legislation came from “doctors, insurers and seniors,” yet she added that Republicans decided to “proceed with their reckless partisan antics.”

Rep. Dave Camp, R-Michigan and chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said the legislation “breaks the cycle of uncertainty for doctors and their patients, providing permanent relief and improving how Medicare pays doctors.”

Moments after the vote, the House campaign committee attacked Democrats who opposed the measure, saying they chose “to protect Obamacare rather than seniors.”

For his part, Obama played pitchman in a 30-minute interview with WebMD, a self-described leading source of trustworthy and timely information about health care issues. He reeled off the toll-free telephone number for the program and repeatedly urged his listeners to check out its website, now repaired after its woeful debut last fall.

Missing jet: Piracy would require special skills

By DAVID KOENIG
AP AIRLINES WRITER

To steal Malaysian Airlines Flight 370 out of midair would require a pilot who knew how to elude detection by both civilian and military radar. It would take a runway at least a mile long to land the wide-body jet, possibly in the dark, and a hangar big enough to hide it. All without being seen.

Improbable but not impossible, experts say.

With the search for the missing airliner entering its eighth day, scenarios involving piracy or hijacking are increasingly being talked about as possible explanations for the disappearance of the Boeing 777 with 239 people on board.

Authorities say they’re not ruling out other theories, which include a catastrophic structural failure causing the plane to break up, engine failure, or pilot suicide. But a U.S. official gave an intriguing twist to the story Friday by saying that investigators are considering whether the plane’s disappearance was due to “an act of piracy” and whether the big jet might have landed somewhere without being detected.

A takeover of the plane seemed to be ruled out a few days ago, when officials discounted any link between terrorism and two passengers who were traveling on fake passports. The piracy theory, however,

gained new life when it was reported that the plane’s transponders had been turned off, making it more stealthy; and that signals from the plane indicated that it kept flying for several hours after the last radio contact, possibly turning west toward the Indian Ocean.

Scott Shankland, an American Airlines pilot who spent several years as a co-pilot on Boeing 777s, said a captain would know how to disable radios and the plane’s other tracking systems. But a hijacker, even one trained to fly a plane, “would probably be hunting and pecking quite a while - ‘Do I pull this switch? Do I pull that?’ You could disable a great deal” of the tracking equipment, “but possibly not all of it.”

Some of the plane’s data is transmitted automatically from equipment not located in the cockpit, making it even harder to avoid leaving electronic bread crumbs, he said.

John Hansman, an aeronautics professor at MIT who is familiar with the Boeing 777, said it would be possible for an intruder to turn off the transponders, but knowing how to shut down other systems in a bid to be stealthy would be more difficult. Even if 9/11-style hijackers got that far, he said, they would be challenged to keep flying, make a successful landing, and hide the plane.

“If it was a hijacking, it was probably a hijacking gone bad,”

he said.

Instead, Hansman thinks that there could have been a cascading series of malfunctions or a fire that shut down key systems on the plane and incapacitated the pilots. He compared it to the 1999 crash in South Dakota of a Learjet carrying pro golfer Payne Stewart.

Air traffic controllers couldn’t contact the crew shortly after the Learjet took off from Florida; pilots in other planes saw no movement in the cockpit; and eventually the jet ran out of fuel. The National Transportation Safety Board ruled that the crash probably was caused by the pilots passing out for lack of oxygen after a loss of cabin pressure.

Without any wreckage from Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, it’s hard to dismiss any theory. A week after the plane left Kuala Lumpur for Beijing, it remains a mystery how a jet with a good safety record and flying in clear weather could just disappear without even a distress call. And without being spotted by radar.

If it was a hijacking, “they would have to be somebody who has detailed knowledge of the plane,” said Alan Diehl, a former NTSB crash investigator. “Could they get down below the radar and make a beeline to an abandoned airstrip somewhere? I suppose the short answer is yes. Even today, satellites don’t cover every square kilometer of the Earth.”

Nation

Officers’ body cameras raise privacy concerns



This Jan. 15, 2014 file photo shows a Los Angeles Police officer wearing an on-body cameras during a demonstration for media in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Officers at thousands of law enforcement agencies are wearing tiny cameras to record their interactions with the public, but in many cases the devices are being rolled out faster than departments are able to create policies to govern their use.

And some rank-and-file officers are worried the technology might ultimately be used to derail their careers if, for example, an errant comment about a superior is captured on tape.

Most law enforcement leaders and civil liberties advocates believe the cameras will ultimately help officers because the devices give them a way to record events from their point of view at a time when citizens

armed with cellphones are actively scrutinizing their every move.

They say, however, that the lack of clear guidelines on the cameras’ use could potentially undermine departments’ goals of creating greater accountability of officers and jeopardize the privacy of both the public and law enforcement officers.

“This is a brave new world that we’re entering here, where citizens and police both are going to be filming each other,” said Chuck Wexler, the executive director of the Police Executive Research Forum, a non-profit police research and policy organization.

The U.S. Justice Department has asked Wexler’s group to

help develop guidelines for the cameras’ use, from when the devices should be turned on to how departments can protect the privacy of those who are inadvertently captured on the footage.

Equipping police with cameras isn’t a new concept. For decades police have used cameras mounted to the dashboards of their patrol cars - initially referred to with suspicion by officers as “indict-o-cams” until they discovered the footage exonerated them in most cases.

As camera technology and data storage has become more affordable and reliable, the use of portable cameras has increased over the last five years. Now officers in one of every six departments are patrolling with them on their chests, lapels or sunglasses, according to Scott Greenwood, general counsel for the national American Civil Liberties Union and an expert on the cameras.

With the push of a finger, officers can show the dangers and difficulties of their work. Unlike dashboard cameras, body cameras follow the officer everywhere—when their cruiser stays parked at the curb, when they go into homes on search warrants or when they are running after a suspect.

Obama’s promise to review deportations has risks

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama’s new promise to seek ways to ease his administration’s rate of deportations aims to mollify angry immigrant advocates but carries risks for a White House that has insisted it has little recourse.

In asking Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson to review enforcement practices, Obama could undo already fragile congressional efforts to overhaul immigration laws. And he still could fall short of satisfying the demands of pro-immigrant groups that have been increasing pressure on him to

dramatically reverse the administration’s record of deportations.

The White House announced Thursday that Obama had directed Johnson, who was sworn in three months ago, to see how the department “can conduct enforcement more humanely within the confines of the law.” Then the president summoned 17 labor and immigration leaders to the White House Friday afternoon for what some participants described as a spirited discussion of his deportations policies and the strategy for enacting a comprehensive congressional overhaul of immigration laws.

“The president displayed a great deal of sympathy for the families affected by the deportation machinery,” Frank Sharry, executive director of America’s Voice, said after the nearly two-hour session. “There was less agreement on when and what should be done about it by the president.”

Participants emerged from the meeting unified in their call for House Republicans to act on immigration legislation. Privately, some said Obama voiced frustration during the meeting with the criticism some of them have directed at him, including calling him “deporter in chief.”

ACROSS THE NATION

Stepmom: Ex-Hawaii soldier’s daughter hit often

HONOLULU (AP)—The stepmother of a 5-year-old girl who prosecutors allege was beaten to death by her father testified Friday that she and the former Hawaii soldier abused the girl regularly and that they pulled her out of school so that others wouldn’t see the signs the abuse left on the child’s body. Delilah Williams testified for the prosecution in the capital murder trial against Naem Williams that they decided to pull the girl, Talia, out of elementary school because they worried that school officials would notice the abuse and have them arrested. “She started having marks on her body,” Delilah Williams said, noting that she and Naem Williams dressed the girl in clothes that covered the marks while the special-needs child was still en-

rolled in school then left her at home by herself after they pulled her from classes.

Oil mars Ala. swamp months after crude train crash

ALICEVILLE, Ala. (AP)—Environmental regulators promised an aggressive cleanup after a tanker train hauling 2.9 million gallons of crude oil derailed and burned in a west Alabama swamp in early November amid a string of North American oil train crashes. So why is dark, smelly crude oil still oozing into the water four months later? The isolated wetland smelled like a garage when a reporter from The Associated Press visited last week, and the charred skeletons of burned trees rose out of water covered with an iridescent sheen and swirling, weathered oil. A snake and a few minnows were some of the few signs of life.

Asia

Focus turns to pilots as hunt for jet widens



Chinese relatives of passengers aboard a missing Malaysia Airlines plane walk out from a hotel room after attending a briefing by Malaysia Airlines in Beijing, China Sunday, March 16, 2014. AP

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian authorities Sunday were investigating the pilots of a jetliner missing for more than a week after it was established that whoever flew off with the Boeing 777 had intimate knowledge of the cockpit and knew how to avoid detection when navigating around Asia.

Satellite data suggested the plane flew for at least 7 1/2 hours—more than six hours after the last radio contact—and that it could have reached north into Central Asia or deep into the southern Indian Ocean, posing awesome challenges for efforts to recover the plane and flight data recorders vital to solving the mystery of what happened on board.

■■■
NEW DELHI (AP)—Massive Indian navy and air search operations for the missing Malaysian aircraft were suspended Sunday until fresh search areas are identified by the Malaysian government, an official said.

Col. Harmit Singh, spokesman for India's tri-services command, said coast guard ships have reverted to routine surveillance in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

"Air and sea operations

for today have been put on hold," Singh said.

■■■
Given that the northern route would take the plane over countries with busy airspace, a southern path is seen as much more likely. The southern Indian Ocean is one of the most remote stretches of water in the world, the third deepest and has little radar coverage. The wreckage might take months—or longer—to find, or might never be located.

There appeared to be some confusion Sunday as India, one of 12 countries contributing planes and vessels to the search, said it had stopped looking while waiting for confirmation from Malaysia on where to look. Malaysia's acting transport minister tweeted he was in meetings to decide the "next course of action" after Saturday's revelations.

In the first detailed findings on what happened to the plane, Prime Minister Najib Razak said Saturday someone severed communications with the ground and deliberately diverted Flight 370 back over the Malay Peninsula after it departed Kuala Lumpur for Beijing early on March 8.

The revelations raised questions over possible lapses by Malaysian authorities, including why the air force wasn't aware

that a jetliner was flying over the country. It also triggered speculation over who on the plane was involved—and what motive they might have for flying away with a plane carrying a 12-person crew and 227 passengers.

If the pilots were involved in the disappearance, where they working together or alone, or with one or more of the passengers or crew? Did they fly the plane under duress or of their own volition? Did one or more of the passengers manage to break into the cockpit, or use threat of violence to gain entry and then pilot the plane?

Malaysian authorities have not ruled out any possibility, and the answers to those questions will have to wait until the flight data recorders are recovered.

Police are investigating all those on board, especially the pilots and anyone else on the manifest with possible aviation experience. That could include past contact with each other, physiological, mental or financial issues or ties to extremist organizations.

Malaysian officials and aviation experts said that whoever disabled the plane's communication systems and then flew the jet must have had a high degree of technical knowledge and flying experience, putting the pilots at the top of the possible suspects list.

Thousands defy curfew in Indian Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Thousands of mourners in the troubled Indian portion of Kashmir defied a curfew Saturday and buried a Kashmiri teenage boy who was shot dead by government forces, police and witnesses said. Armed police and paramilitary soldiers patrolled the area after imposing an indefinite curfew to prevent violence, but did not stop the funeral procession for Farhat Ahmed Dar, 18. The mourners chanted slogans "Down with India!" and "We want freedom" in Naidkhai, a village nearly 30 kilometers (20 miles) north of Srinagar, the main city of the Indian portion of Kashmir.

World

Ukraine says Russian forces move outside Crimea

SIMFEROPOL, Ukraine (AP)—Russian forces backed by helicopter gunships and armored vehicles Saturday took control of a village near the border with Crimea on the eve of a referendum on whether the region should seek annexation by Moscow, Ukrainian officials said.

The action in Strilkove appeared to be the first move outside Crimea, where Russian forces have been in effective control since late last month. There were no reports of gunfire or injuries. The incident raises tensions already at a high level before Sunday's referendum.

■■■
SIMFEROPOL, Ukraine (AP)—Residents of Ukraine's Crimea region are voting in a contentious referendum on whether to split off and seek annexation by Russia.

The Sunday vote is regarded as illegitimate both by the acting Ukrainian government and by the West, but is widely expected to pass. Crimea is predominantly ethnic Russian, and its residents say they fear that the government that took over when pro-Russia President Viktor

Yanukovich was ousted last month will oppress them.

Since Yanukovich fled to Russia, Crimea has come under control of local militia forces, as well as heavily armed troops under apparent command from Moscow.

If the referendum passes, Russia faces the prospect of sanctions from Western nations.

■■■
In a statement, the Foreign Ministry denounced the foray outside Crimea, and said Ukraine "reserves the right to use all necessary measures to stop the military invasion by Russia."

The village is on a long spit reaching northward from the main part of the Black Sea peninsula, about 10 kilometers (six miles) north of the border between Crimea and the Khereson region.

A spokesman for the Ukrainian border guard service, Oleg Slobodyan, told The Associated Press the Russians, about 120 in all, took control of a natural gas distribution station in the village. The Foreign Ministry said the force consisted of about 80 and didn't mention the station, but said the village was seized.

As Crimea prepares for Sunday's referendum, dozens

of billboards throughout the regional capital proclaim "Together With Russia." But a few have been hit by spray-painters who scrawled out "Russia" and replaced it with "Ukraine."

The referendum is denounced by Kiev and the West as illegitimate; the West is threatening costly sanctions against Russia if it moves to incorporate Crimea. But the result is seen as a foregone conclusion—Crimea is almost certain to vote to split off, further aggravating Ukraine's political crisis and one of the harshest East-West confrontations since the end of the Cold war.

In Moscow, tens of thousands of anti-government protesters marched in central Moscow against the referendum. Protesters carried banners that read: "For your freedom and for ours!" One demonstrator held up a plate of salo—cured pork fat that is a staple of Ukrainian cuisine and adored by many Russians—along with a poster that read: "Make salo, not war!"

Nearby, a rally of several thousand people was held close to the Kremlin in support of Russian intervention in Crimea.

EU mulling next steps against Russia over Ukraine

BRUSSELS (AP)—The European Union is taking steps to increase sanctions against Russia over what many believe is a planned annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region, as Moscow has changed from a wary partner to a diplomatic adversary in the space of a few months.

Sunday's referendum in Crimea on secession has been called illegal by the EU and the U.S., and EU foreign ministers will decide on Monday whether to impose asset freeze and visa sanctions and, if so, who to target.

EU diplomats were working feverishly over the weekend to set up a list of Russian and Moscow-leaning officials from Ukraine who have been involved in pushing for the southern peninsula's secession and possible annexation. Diplomats said member states arrived at weekend talks with different suggestions, so a common list could be drawn up for Monday's meeting of the 28 foreign ministers to make a final decision.

"There must be a firm and united response" at the meeting, said British Foreign Secretary William Hague. "The time has come for tougher restrictive measures to be adopted."

They would likely include military officials who ordered

Ukrainian troops to leave their barracks in Crimea and others who were responsible for break-away actions there. On the other hand, diplomats said they would shy away from economic operators at the moment.

Depending on developments in Moscow and Ukraine, further sanctions could follow during a two-day summit of EU leaders starting on Thursday.

"We will be—I am quite certain—ready for Monday morning. This will be discussed by ministers in order to reach a decision on that second stage of sanctions," a senior EU diplomat said on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

An EU summit last week suspended talks with Russia on a wide-ranging economic pact and a visa agreement.

On top of that, the EU could move quickly, possibly within a week, to sign the political chapters of a far-reaching association agreement with the provisional government in Kiev, underscoring its support for the new Ukraine government.

EU diplomats in several capitals made it clear the West is unwilling to give up Crimea in the hope of preventing Moscow from moving into eastern Ukraine.

If Moscow takes further measures to exacerbate the crisis, the

EU leaders already have threatened what they have called "far-reaching consequences for relations in a broad range of economic areas."

It would set off a tit-for-tat game of sanctions, which the EU hopes would increasingly isolate Russia on the global stage. Moscow says it is convinced economic sanctions would hurt the EU as much as Russia itself.

Bound by tens of billions of dollars in trade, there is plenty to hurt one another.

Russia is the EU's third-largest trading partner, mainly because of oil and gas imports, with the EU being its biggest gas consumer. Germany, for example, gets 35 percent of its supplies from Russia.

Russia, in turn, buys everything from machinery to cars from Europe, its biggest trading partner, with exports to Russia totaling 123 billion euros (\$170 billion) in 2012.

The big change in relations came when Ukraine's Moscow-leaning president, Viktor Yanukovich, made a last-minute decision to abandon an agreement to strengthen ties with the EU and instead sought closer cooperation with Russia. The EU accused Moscow of pressuring Ukraine to make the change and relations have fallen even further from then on.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Parents of Japan abductee meet NKorean grandchild

TOKYO (AP)—The parents of a Japanese woman abducted by North Korea in 1977 have met their Korean-born granddaughter for the first time. The Japanese Foreign Ministry confirmed Sunday that Shigeru Yokota and his wife Sakie spent time with Kim Eun Gyong over several days last week in Ulan Bator, Mongolia. Kim is 26 years old, Japanese media said. The meeting could be a small step toward resuming official government talks between Japan and North Korea.

Focus

Low-wage jobs unexpectedly a way of life for many

By JOSH BOAK
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—For years, many Americans followed a simple career path: Land an entry-level job. Accept a modest wage. Gain skills. Leave eventually for a better-paying job.

The workers benefited, and so did lower-wage retailers such as Wal-Mart: When its staffers left for better-paying jobs, they could spend more at its stores. And the U.S. economy gained, too, because more consumer spending fueled growth.

Not so much anymore. Since the Great Recession began in late 2007, that path has narrowed because many of the next-tier jobs no longer exist. That means more lower-wage workers have to stay put. The resulting bottleneck is helping widen a gap between the richest Americans and everyone else.

"Some people took those jobs because they were the only ones available and haven't been able to figure out how to move out of that," Bill Simon, CEO of Wal-Mart U.S., acknowledged in an interview with The Associated Press.

If Wal-Mart employees "can go to another company and another job and make more money and develop, they'll be better," Simon explained. "It'll be better for the economy. It'll be better for us as a business, to be quite honest, because they'll continue to advance in their economic life."

Yet for now, the lower-wage jobs once seen as stepping stones are increasingly being held for longer periods by older, better-educated, more experienced workers.

The trend extends well beyond Wal-Mart, the nation's largest employer, and is reverberating across the U.S. economy. It's partly why average inflation-adjusted income has declined 9 percent for the bottom 40 percent of households since 2007, even as incomes for the top 5 percent now slightly exceed where they were when the recession began late that year, according to the Census Bureau.

Research shows that occupations that once helped elevate people from the minimum wage into the middle class have disappeared during the past three recessions dating to 1991.

One such category includes bookkeepers and executive secretaries, with average wages of \$16.54 an hour, according to the Labor Department. Since the mid-1980s, the economy has shed these middle-income jobs—a trend that's become more pronounced with the recoveries that have followed



In this Sunday, Nov. 13, 2005, file photo, customers at a Wal-Mart store head to the checkout lines past a worker with the company's motto on the back of her vest, in Salt Lake City.

each subsequent recession, according to research by Henry Siu, an economist at the University of British Columbia, and Duke University economist Nir Jaimovich.

That leaves many workers remaining in jobs as cashiers earning an average of \$9.79 an hour, or in retail sales at roughly \$10.50—jobs that used to be entry points to higher-paying work. Hourly pay at Wal-Mart averages \$8.90, according to the site Glassdoor.com. (Wal-Mart disputes that figure; it says its pay for hourly workers averages \$11.83.)

Since the Great Recession began, the share of U.S. workers employed by the retail and restaurant sector has risen from 16.5 percent to 17.1 percent.

"It really has contributed to this widening of inequality," Siu said.

The shift has injected new pressures into the economy. Older and better-educated retail and fast food workers have become more vocal in pressing for raises. Labor unions helped launch protests last year against such employers as Wal-Mart, McDonald's and Burger King.

Fewer teenagers are staffing cash registers, prepping meals or stocking shelves, according to government data. Replacing them are adults, many of whom are struggling with the burdens of college debt or child rearing. Some are on the verge of what was once envisioned as retirement years.

They are people like Richard Wilson, 27, in Chicago. More than 2 1/2 years ago, a Wal-Mart store manager spotted Wilson cleaning the cafeteria at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.

A double major in biblical studies and business communications, Wilson had \$3,000 in tuition due and had maxed out on student loans. He said the recruiter suggested that a management job could eventually be within reach for him because, "Wal-Mart is where people's dreams become a reality."

Wilson first worked at a Wal-Mart near college before returning to his Chicago hometown without a degree but with \$50,000 in student debt and another job at a boutique Wal-Mart specializing in groceries.

Today, Wilson earns \$9.45 an hour at that Wal-Mart and lives on the city's western edge with his grandmother. He boards a bus most mornings at 3:30 a.m. and arrives for his 5 a.m. shift in the more upscale neighborhood of Lakeview East. He has applied for promotions. So far, no success.

If he had the money for a ring and a wedding, Wilson said he would propose to his girlfriend.

Last year, 17.4 million Americans between ages 25 and 64 earned less than \$10.10 an hour, the minimum wage proposed by President Barack Obama (The current federal minimum is \$7.25.) That's equal to an income of nearly \$19,000 for a full-time employee—less than half the median pay of a U.S. worker.

The share of Americans in their prime earning years who earn the equivalent of \$10.10 an hour or less, adjusted for inflation, has risen to 13.4 percent from 10.4 percent in 1979, according to government data analyzed by John Schmitt, a senior economist at the progressive Center for Economic

and Policy Research.

Nearly a third of low-wage employees last year had had some college education. An additional 10 percent had graduated. By contrast, in 1979 less than 25 percent of low-wage employees had college experience. Most had not completed high school. For millions of lower-wage workers, more schooling hasn't led to higher pay.

"Where you start out in terms of wages helps to predict where you move over time," Schmitt said.

That principle has become an alarming reality for many. Only 5.5 percent of people with jobs at the fast food chain Wendy's will earn more than \$70,000 in today's dollars at that company, based on a review last year of 8 million resumes by the analytics firm Bright.com.

Just 8 percent of Home Depot employees will be so fortunate. For Macy's, 9.4 percent. By contrast, more than a quarter of Amazon staffers will exceed \$70,000 a year. The ratio is even better for Verizon and AT&T workers. A majority of Ford employees will achieve that income at least once in their career. Just 10 percent of Wal-Mart workers will.

Wal-Mart promotes itself as a source of opportunity, and in some cases, that's proved true. Over 11 years, for example, Tonya Jones rose from staffing a checkout line to managing a section of a Wal-Mart supercenter in Hendersonville, Tenn. Jones, 41, said her pay exceeds \$15 an hour—enough with scholarships, including one from Wal-Mart, to help put her daughter through college.

Asked whether she repre-

sents an average Wal-Mart worker, Jones said opportunities at the company boil down to personal choices.

"I want to be No. 1," she said. "I am very competitive."

That said, the data show why it's harder now for workers to rise into higher-paying fields despite an economic recovery now nearly 5 years old. About 1.9 million office and administrative support jobs were lost to the Great Recession, according to government data. That includes 714,370 executive secretaries with annual incomes averaging \$50,220. And 252,240 fewer bookkeepers with average incomes of \$36,640.

By comparison, the number of lower-wage jobs increased: The Labor Department says restaurants added 777,800 jobs since the recession began, general merchandise stores 345,600.

"You see adults moving into these relatively generic services (jobs) that don't require expertise, just dexterity, attention and showing up," said MIT economist David Autor. "You want people to be in jobs that have good trajectories. I can imagine you only get so efficient as a checkout clerk or a stocker."

Wal-Mart customer service manager Janet Sparks of Baker, La., trained as a bookkeeper. She owned a video rental store and worked for an accountant, a nuclear power plant, a McDonald's and a bank before joining Wal-Mart about eight years ago.

Sparks, 53, said Wal-Mart once offered a path to the middle class with merit raises of up to \$2 an hour. The company ended those raises, while making more employees eligible

for bonuses based on a store's overall performance. It also introduced what's called "optimal scheduling" to match employees with expected sales. It can mean that workers whose shift ended at 11 p.m. might have to begin their next shift at 7 a.m., Sparks said.

Sparks said the erratic schedule makes it hard for employees to earn additional income from a second job. She joined Wal-Mart in 2005 with the expectation that the since-cancelled merit pay raises would eventually let her clear \$21 an hour. She instead received smaller raises and now earns \$12.40.

Wal-Mart said it began to change its bonus system in 2006. It now pays bonuses of up to \$2,500 to some employees based on their store's performance.

And it says its scheduling system considers the preferences and availability of employees and gives them three weeks' notice of their work calendars.

Other retailers have also adopted optimal scheduling. Starbucks was sued by a former employee over its system, according to Massachusetts court records. Starbucks said on its corporate site that the "goal" of optimal scheduling "was to provide the most working hours to those partners who were available to do so."

Retail industry executives argue that stronger economic growth would make it possible to pay higher wages. The economy grew just 1.9 percent last year, well below its post-World War II average of 3.2 percent.

"For generations of Americans, it was an entry-level wage that got you into a position in which you could gain skills and experience and then get connected to the workforce and move up," said Matthew Shay, CEO of the National Retail Federation. "The problem now is the economy is not growing rapidly enough to create those other opportunities."

Simon's suggestion that many Wal-Mart employees might be better off leaving for other jobs surprised Wal-Mart cashier Joanna Lopez. A 26-year-old single mother, she owns no car and lives with her church pastor near Fremont, Calif. She collects food stamps and receives insurance through California's version of Medicaid.

Lopez started at Wal-Mart as a temp in August 2011, after being unable to land a hospital job with her associate's degree. Her pay has risen from \$8 an hour to \$9.20, after she moved from part time to full time. The suggestion by a Wal-Mart executive that some employees might be staying too long offended her.

Health & Fitness

Cuddlers soothe babies too sick, tiny to go home

By **LINDSEY TANNER**
AP MEDICAL WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—A volunteer slips her arms into a gauzy yellow hospital gown and approaches a medical crib holding a tiny newborn hooked up to noisy machines.

"OK," she says, with a smile. "Baby time."

That means cuddle time in the neonatal intensive care unit at the University of Chicago's Comer Children's Hospital. Here, as at several other hospitals around the country, strangers offer a simple yet powerful service for newborns too tiny or sick to go home.

When nurses are swamped with other patients and parents cannot make it to the hospital, grandmas, empty-nesters, college students and other volunteers step in. They hold the babies, swaddle them, sing and coo to them, rock them, and treat them as if they were their own.

A plaintive cry signals time to get to work.

"You can see them calm,



Evelyn Steadman, 7-months old, sleeps on the chest of her grandmother, Kathleen Jones, at the baby's home in Crete, Ill. on Wednesday, March 5, 2014.

you can see their heart rate drop, you can see their little brows relax," said Kathleen Jones, 52, a cuddler at the Chicago hospital. "They're fighting so hard and they're undergoing all this medical drama

and trauma. My heart breaks for them a little bit."

Newborn intensive care units are noisy, stressful environments. There are babies born extremely prematurely, or with birth defects and other

illnesses. Some are too sick to be held—but not too sick to touch. Cuddlers reach a finger inside their incubators and stroke tiny bare bellies.

Scientific evidence on benefits of cuddling programs is scarce, but the benefits of human touch are well-known. In one study, gentle caressing

or placing a hand on preterm infants reduced levels of stress hormones. Other recent studies have suggested touch may benefit preemies' heart rates and sleep and perhaps even shorten their hospital stays.

Studies also suggest that early negative experiences—including pain, stress and separation from other humans—may hamper brain development, while research in animals shows that positive interactions enhance brain growth, said Dr. Jerry Schwartz, medical director of medical neonatology at Torrance Memorial Medical Center near Los Angeles.

The benefit "at the most superficial level" is obvious, he said. "A baby is crying, mom's not there, the nurse is busy with other sick babies, and it's an unpleasant life experience to be crying and unattended to, and, voila! A cuddler comes over and the baby stops crying."

Nancy Salcido has been a cuddler at Torrance for a year. Her two daughters are grown, and she considers her three-hour cuddling shifts good practice for any potential grandchildren.

"I just kind of hold them close to me ... and talk to

them, sharing my day, or give them little pep talks," Salcido said. "One of the nurses has nicknamed me the baby whisperer."

Parents typically must consent for their babies to be part of cuddling programs, and cuddlers must undergo background checks and training before starting the job. At Chicago's Comer hospital, that includes lessons in how to swaddle babies tight to make them feel safe and how to maneuver around intravenous lines, as well as instruction in hygiene including frequent hand-washing.

At the Golisano Children's Hospital in Rochester, N.Y., one cuddler is a young man born there prematurely long ago. He "just wants to come and give back," said Chris Tryon, a child life specialist at the hospital, part of the University of Rochester Medical Center.

Comer's cuddlers include 74-year-old Frank Dertz, a retired carpenter who heard about the program from his daughter, a Comer nurse.

"It's quite a blessing for me. I get more out of it than the babies, I think," Dertz said.

We pee in the pool—and it's hurting our health, study says

By **STACEY LEASCA**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—One in five Americans has admitted to peeing in a public swimming pool, according to a new survey.

That's 20 percent of Americans urinating where others swim. Besides being disgusting, peeing in the pool may be seriously harmful to your health.

In a new study, researchers from China Agricultural University and Purdue University looked at what happened when uric acid, a byproduct of urine, and chlorine combined. The group found dangerous chemical reactions were a result of this unholy union.

The combo kicks up cyanogen chloride, a gas that can harm the central nervous system, heart and lungs if inhaled. Uric acid is linked to 24 percent to 68 percent of this byproduct

in pool water, the scientists said.

And you can chalk up 3 percent to 4 percent of the harmful byproduct trichloramine in pool water to uric acid. Nitrogen trichloramine (NC13) is a poisonous gas that can cause acute lung injury. The buildup of this gas can be so quick and so severe that researchers studying a national swimming competition found that NC13 levels doubled after one day of use. The gas levels increased as much as fourfold over the entire four-day competition.

Both of these gases have been linked to chronic health issues among swimmers.

How can we stop these chemical reactions from occurring?

Jing Li, professor of applied chemistry at China Agricultural University, told QZ.com that increasing the amount of chlorine in pool water would help in part. Another, much better solution:

Don't pee in the pool. It is, as the study points out, "a voluntary action for most swimmers."

Sadly, this isn't a first report on human waste in swimming pools. According to a May article by the L.A. Times' Amina Khan: "More than half of the public pools tested in a new study contained bacterial evidence that someone may have pooped in the pool."

Let's just get it together and make it to the bathroom, people.

Here are some other swimming facts from the latest survey:

- 11 percent of participants admit to swimming with a runny nose

- 43 percent said they skipped taking a shower before swimming

- 6 percent admitted to swimming with a cold

- But less than 1 percent admitted to swimming while ill with diarrhea.

GO FIGURE

Health care needs 42 sign-ups a minute

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
AP SCIENCE WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—If the Obama administration's health care plan is going to pass what amounts to its first physical, people have to sign up this month at a pretty speedy rate: 42 times a minute.

That's somewhere between the steady rate you breathe and how fast your heart beats.

Someone has to sign up ev-

ery 1.4 seconds in March for the Obama administration to reach its 6 million sign-up goal. Enrollment season ends March 31 and as of March 1, sign-ups were at 4.2 million.

The government needs 1.8 million sign-ups in the 30 days between March 2 and March 31, officials said. That's 60,000 a day or 2,500 per hour. That's way more than the daily averages for January and February, which ranged between 33,000

and 34,000.

To put it in health terms, the average healthy adult at rest takes 12 to 18 breaths per minute. The average adult pulse is between 60 and 100 beats per minute at rest. Highly trained athletes can get their heart rate below 50 beats per minute.

It takes about a minute to read this. If the Obama administration wants to hit its goal, another 42 people had to sign up in that time.

Personal Trainer

Weights can help women

Women tend to spend their time at the gym working on cardio exercise, but these are all good reasons to exercise with weights:

- You will be stronger** and depend less on others for help with lifting; carrying kids, groceries and laundry will be easier
- You will lose fat** because developing even a little more muscle mass will raise your resting metabolism
- You will look better** as your muscles become toned and defined – but not bulky
- You will be less likely** to develop osteoporosis, heart disease and diabetes
- Your performance will improve** in most sports, and you will reduce your risk of sports injury
- Your mood will improve** and you will gain confidence and be less at risk of depression

Source: Your Guide to Sports Medicine by Elizabeth Quinn

Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap
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Life & Style

‘12 Years A Slave’ author’s death still a mystery

By CHRIS CAROLA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. (AP)—Historians know where Solomon Northup was born, where he lived and where he worked. They know whom he married and how many children he had. They know he played the fiddle and spent 12 years enslaved in the South before being freed.

What historians don’t know about the author of “12 Years A Slave” is when and how he died and where he is buried. It’s a lingering mystery in the final chapter of the life of the 19th-century free-born African-American whose compelling account of enforced slavery in pre-Civil War Louisiana was made into the Oscar-winning film of the same title.

“That’s sort of a big blank spot in the story, for sure,” said Rachel Seligman, co-author

of “Solomon Northup: The Complete Story of the Author of Twelve Years a Slave,” published last year.

This month, “12 Years A Slave” took home the Academy Awards for best picture, best adapted screenplay and best supporting actress. The accolades have sparked new interest in Northup’s story, which was little known until recent years even in the upstate New York communities where he spent most of his life.

Northup was born July 10, 1807, in what is now the Essex County town of Minerva, in the Adirondack Mountains. His father, a former slave, moved the family to neighboring Washington County, eventually settling in the village of Fort Edward, on the Hudson River 40 miles north of Albany. Northup married Anne Hampton in the late 1820s, and the couple lived in an 18th-century house in Fort

Edward that is now a museum.

Northup worked on his father’s farm and rafted timber on the Champlain Canal between Fort Edward and the southern end of Lake Champlain. The couple and their children moved to nearby Saratoga Springs when Anne got a job in one of the growing spa resort town’s big hotels. Northup found work as a musician, and in 1841, two white men lured him to Washington, D.C., with the promise of more work. Instead, they kidnapped him and took him to New Orleans, where he was sold into slavery.

Northup endured the next 12 years enslaved on a Louisiana cotton plantation before friends in Saratoga finally won his freedom. In 1853, he published a memoir of his ordeal that led to a speaking tour supported by abolitionists. He got involved in the Underground Railroad, helping escaped slaves find

freedom in the Northeast and Canada. But around 1863, the height of the Civil War, he dropped out of sight and was never heard from again. Even the movie notes at the end that “the date, location and circumstances” of Northup’s death remain unknown.

Theories abound about what may have happened to him. One scenario has him being captured and killed while serving as a spy for the Union Army. The man who helped rescue him said he believed Northup had taken to drink and was kidnapped yet again. Or Northup could have died in a place where no one knew him or cared to properly bury an African-American at a

time when a war over slavery was tearing the nation apart.

“He may have just wandered around from place to place and died somewhere nobody knew who he was, and he was buried in a potter’s field,” said David Fiske, co-author the 2013 Northup book along with Union College professor Clifford Brown.

“There’s no paper trail for him,” Brown added.

Fiske said Northup’s descendants also couldn’t provide any documents or hard facts, so he has followed numerous threads while trying to track down where Northup may have been buried. He checked cemeteries in

communities outside Saratoga and other upstate communities where Northup’s wife and their children later lived, but came up empty. No death records have ever been found for him. Fiske, a former state librarian, points out that death records weren’t kept in a systematic form in New York until the 1880s.

For Seligman, a museum curator at Skidmore College, host of this July’s annual Solomon Northup Day, the mystery surrounding Northup’s demise and resting place is part of the allure of being a historian.

“It’s what keeps historians going,” she said. “It’s just a puzzle to be solved.”

Future has his mind on the future at SXSW

By CHRIS TALBOTT
AP MUSIC WRITER

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Future had one last spot to fill on his upcoming album and he wanted Kanye West to guest. He sent over a few tracks and what happened next was completely unexpected.

“He picked this ‘I Won’ track,” the Atlanta producer-rapper said Saturday during a two-day stop at South By Southwest. “He did the verse in one day and sent it back. That’s rare when you get a Kanye verse back in one day, so you know it’s one of them records when he does the verse and sends it back in 24 hours. That’s the icing on the cake with the album.”

Future began to debut tracks from “Honest,” out April 22, at the annual music conference and festival on Friday and said he was excited for the wider world to hear what he feels is a very personal album. “Honest” also includes guest appearances from stars like Pharrell, Drake, Andre 3000 and Wiz Khalifa.

West’s appearance on “I Won” is one of the more personal moments, encapsulating how deeply in love each is with the women in their lives. West is engaged to Kim Kardashian and Future will marry Ciara later this year. The song compares their relationships with the feeling of winning a trophy.

“When you have songs like that, they empower women,” he said. “I just feel like I want to big up women just in general, from my lady to his lady, to all women, to make sure they get their light on them and just knowing they’re important.”

Future has much more going



Future performs during the SXSW Music Festival Friday March 14, 2014, in Austin, Texas.

on this year than just the album. He’s got a tour to rehearse for and can’t take all the outside production opportunities he’s being offered. He’s also launching an apparel line. That’s just the business side. In his personal life, he’s preparing for the birth of a child with Ciara and trying to plan their wedding.

He didn’t want to give away more details, but couldn’t help it as he talked about everything.

“I’m suuuper excited, even though I don’t want to talk about it, I’m super, super, super excited,” he said. “Personally we’re trying to get everything mapped out in the way we want to do it, and so it’s not time to talk about

it, but it’s going to happen. And we’re excited about our baby, excited about getting married. She’s actually doing the baby shower. We’re super excited about that, every day shopping for the baby, just trying new things, just me growing up, being a father, learning about myself, learning more about my kids and just being the man I need to be for them.”

Asked if he knows the baby’s sex, he initially declined to answer, but couldn’t help himself. The baby is going to be “a superstar,” he said. “He’s kicking around, dancing in her stomach, doing some moves. I don’t know what he’s doing, turning it up.”

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Paul Stanley of Kiss wants to shout it out loud: The band is miffed at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame for not inducting members Eric Singer and Tommy Thayer along with the original lineup.

Kiss is scheduled to be inducted into the Rock Hall on April 10 in New York City. But Stanley said in an interview Friday with The Associated Press that he doesn’t think the Rock Hall is being fair and that the organization has altered their rules for other acts.

“We have continuing issues with the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, starting with the fact that they chose to only induct the original lineup when that’s hardly the case with other bands,” he said from Los Angeles.

“In the Grateful Dead’s case, (they) also inducted a writer who never played an instrument,” said Stanley, referring to Robert Hunter’s inclusion when the band was inducted in 1994. “Or they’ve inducted rap artists, or they’ve inducted people who

have been in the band for seven years as opposed to ... 25 years or 20 years—whatever their criteria of this week is.”

A representative for the Rock Hall didn’t immediately return an email seeking comment. Acts become eligible for induction 25 years after the release of their first record.

Kiss wrote on its website last month that it would not perform at the Rock Hall induction.

The original members from 1973—Stanley, Gene Simmons, Peter Criss and Ace Frehley—are scheduled for induction. Criss left the band in 1980 and Frehley left in 1982. Other members joined during the 1980s, but the current lineup includes Singer, who joined in 1992, and Thayer, who came on board in 2003.

Stanley, 62, said the Rock Hall “tried to strong-arm us into playing in original lineup,” but the band would not do so.

“Their craving of nostalgia or for wanting to have us play by their rules in many ways jeopardizes what we have spent 40 years building,” he said. “I’ve been there since the beginning,

and when I put on my Kiss gear, I do it with great pride, and anything that may jeopardize that by going out with a lineup that I might question is a nonstarter for me.”

Thayer and Singer should be inducted, he said, because they “have been in the band for decades and played on multi-platinum albums and toured the world.”

He ended with this: “So, in this case, very clearly the tail doesn’t wag the dog, and Kiss is a big dog, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is a small tail.”

Nirvana, Peter Dinklage, Hall and Oates, Linda Ronstadt and Cat Stevens will also be inducted at the 29th-annual Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony at the Barclays Center. Rolling Stones manager Andrew Loog Oldham and the late Beatles manager Brian Epstein will receive Ahmet Ertegun awards, a nonperforming honor. And Bruce Springsteen’s E Street Band will get an award for musical excellence.

The event will air in May on HBO.



In this May 8, 2008 file photo, members of Kiss, from left, Paul Stanley, Eric Singer, Gene Simmons and Tommy Thayer, poses for a photograph during a news conference to promote the start of their KISS Alive/35 European Tour in Oberhausen, Germany.

John Mahoney finds home onstage after 'Frasier'

By CARYN ROUSSEAU
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO (AP)—John Mahoney is known to most television fans for playing Frasier Crane's father on the long-running series "Frasier," but the actor has spent much of his time in the years since the show ended pursuing roles on stage.

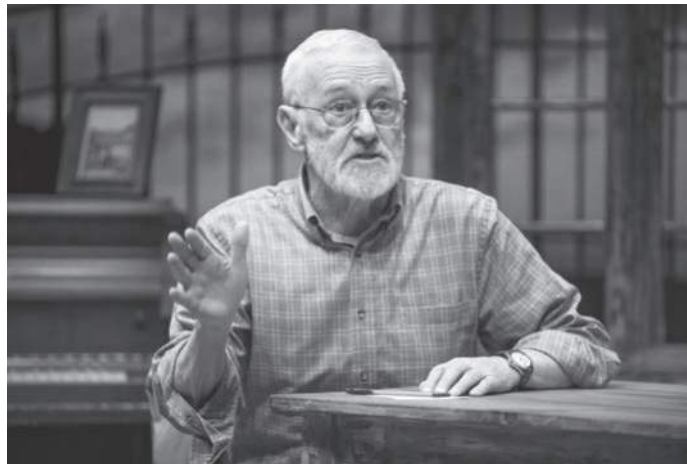
Mahoney, 73, has done some TV roles since "Frasier" ended in 2004—like playing Betty White's boyfriend on "Hot in Cleveland"—but he said the theater is home.

"You just get such better parts on stage and that's primarily what I've done," he said in an interview. "I'm almost never out of work and it's almost always on stage."

The Tony-winning actor's latest stint is at Northlight Theatre in the Chicago suburb of Skokie, where he stars in "Chapatti." The piece is by Irish playwright Christian O'Reilly and tells the story of a man living in Dublin with his dog named Chapatti. It runs March 7 to April 13 before going to Galway, Ireland.

The play's director, Northlight Theatre artistic director BJ Jones, said Mahoney isn't pretentious and describes him as "a real Chicago kind of guy."

"He just likes to work," Jones said. "It's in his genes. It's in his



In this March 6, 2014 photo provided by the Northlight Theatre in Skokie, Ill., actor John Mahoney, 73, plays a scene in the final dress rehearsal for "Chapatti," by Irish playwright Christian O'Reilly.

DNA. He's the same guy he was before 'Frasier' and all of the films he's done."

Mahoney came to acting in the middle of his life. He said he was 37 when he found himself unfulfilled in his job editing a medical journal. He decided to enroll in acting classes, remembering that he played Polonius in "Hamlet" at age 12.

"I thought, 'Why don't I try that again and see if this is what I should be doing,'" Mahoney said. "It was like life was just waiting for me to make that decision."

Mahoney was invited to join Chicago's famed Steppenwolf Theatre Company, home to ac-

tors like John Malkovich and Joan Allen.

In 1985 he starred in the Steppenwolf play "Orphans" directed by Gary Sinise. That production went to New York and the exposure "kicked off my career," Mahoney said. The next year he won the Tony Award for featured actor in a play for "The House of Blue Leaves."

After that, Mahoney said, he didn't have to audition for roles anymore.

Mahoney said he was a little leery when he heard about "Frasier" because he had previously done television shows that were canceled after a handful of episodes. But once he read the

script, Mahoney said he was in. He calls it the "defining moment" of his career.

"I'm very proud to have 'Frasier' as my television legacy," Mahoney said. "I've done a lot of good television myself. But still I think nothing can quite compare to 'Frasier.'"

His role as retired police officer Martin Crane with his lovable terrier Eddie earned Mahoney Golden Globe and Emmy nominations. It also has resonated with fans around the world. Mahoney said he was in Istanbul when, "somebody yelled out to me, 'Where's Eddie? Hey Marty? How's the dog?'"

Malaysian jet mystery a big TV ratings draw

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The mystery of the missing Malaysian Airlines jet has become a hot television story, particularly on CNN.

The network devoted the bulk of its time Friday to the story, a direct result of ratings showing a fascination among viewers about the Boeing 777 airliner that has been missing since taking off from a Kuala Lumpur airport a week ago.

CNN averaged 588,000 viewers for the full day Thursday, well above its average of 320,000 this year. Anderson Cooper's prime-time show, which has focused heavily on the mystery, more than doubled its typical viewership the last two nights and topped 1.1 million viewers Thursday.

The network tracked various theories Friday, a headline on its screen identifying the story as "Vanished." Correspondent Martin Savidge did several reports from a cockpit simulator, Wolf Blitzer discussed whether the recording of a seismic event in the region on the day the plane took off could be tied to a crash and security experts continued to mull potential terrorism.

It has become a water cooler topic, with several social media references to the downed jet that kicked off the popular television series "Lost."

Cooper's show, which has averaged 444,000 viewers this year, reached 972,000 people on Wednesday, Nielsen said. On both of the last two nights, Cooper achieved the highly unusual feat of topping Fox News Channel's Bill O'Reilly among the 25- to 54-year-old age demographic. O'Reilly easily won among viewers of all ages.

So far, the plane story has meant less for Fox and MSNBC, which have a heavier concentration on political stories. Fox's full-day average of 1.26 million people on Thursday beat the 1.1 million it has been typically drawing this year. MSNBC had 370,000 viewers, lower than its non-Olympic average of 405,000 this year, Nielsen said.

Mom worries about 11-year-old daughter who acts grown up

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My 11-year-old daughter, "Gwen," just started middle school. She makes good grades, but she's strong-willed. Do kids grow up instantly when they start middle school?

She wants to know if she can have a boyfriend. I told her not until she's 15. Now she's flirting with girls who ask her out. I told her to stay away from them, not because they are lesbians but because they are not good girls. They are always in trouble.

Gwen says I'm too strict, and if I don't stop, she will run away. I adopted her at birth (it was an open adoption), and she recently asked me if I am going to place her for adoption. She was worried that I would. I am very concerned that she is hanging out with the wrong crowd. Any advice?

SAN ANTONIO MOM

DEAR MOM: People do not grow up "instantly." I know individuals who are immature at 50, and I'm sure if you think about it, so do you. From what you have told me about your daughter, it's clear that she is far from the grown-up she thinks she is.

If you do not want Gwen to date until she is older, that is your prerogative as her parent. The gender of the person isn't the issue.

Because you think she is hanging out with the wrong crowd, my advice is to make sure she is so busy she doesn't have time to spend with them. Involve her in activities outside of school—sports, scouting, music or art. And be sure she knows that you are her forever mother and that nothing she could ever do will lessen your love for her.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 29-year-old woman who has just been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. It has been a rough road, and I'm lucky to have such a supportive group.

My issue is, when people find out, I get comments such as, "Wow, you look so GOOD!" or suggestions on how I should "cure" my MS. The most hurtful one was that it's all in my head.

While I appreciate that folks care and want to offer help, I find their comments offensive and hurtful. How do I respond tactfully, but also convey that they should think twice before they say these things?

UPSET IN OHIO

DEAR UPSET: If someone says you look good, respond as you would to any other compliment—say thank you. When someone offers a suggestion about how you can "cure" yourself, you'll save yourself a lot of frustration if you keep in mind that the person cares enough about you to try to be helpful. All you need to do is smile and say firmly that you are under a doctor's care and are satisfied with the treatment you are receiving.

And, heaven forbid, if another individual tells you that your MS is "all in your head," remember that just because a jackass brays does not mean you have to pay attention.

■■■

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY IRISH READERS: I received this Irish prayer from a reader. I'm sharing it with you today in honor of St. Patrick's Day:

Take time to work,
It is the price of success,
Take time to think,
It is the source of power.
Take time to play,
It is the secret of perpetual youth.
Take time to read,
It is the foundation of wisdom.
Take time to be friendly,
It is the road to happiness.
Take time to love and be loved,
It is the privilege of the gods.
Take time to share,
Life is too short to be selfish.
Take time to laugh,
Laughter is the music of the soul.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Kevin Spacey responds to Toronto mayor attack



In this image provided by ABC, Kevin Spacey appears on the 9th annual "Jimmy Kimmel Live: After the Oscars" special in Los Angeles on March 2, 2014.

By CHARMAINE NORONHA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TORONTO (AP)—Kevin Spacey on Saturday tweeted a Photoshopped image of himself between Toronto mayor Rob Ford and his brother in response to the siblings' criticism that he won't take photos with them.

Rob and Doug Ford complained earlier this week that they were told they could not have their picture taken with the actor when Spacey and Rob Ford appeared on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" on Mar 2.

The embattled mayor said he wouldn't know Spacey "if I ran over him." Ford's brother

called the actor "an arrogant SOB." The pair made the comments on their show on YouTube named after the mayor's supporters.

Along with the photo he tweeted, Spacey said, "When did Mayor Ford start doing what people tell him to do? All you had to do was ask, guys. Here's your pic."

During Spacey's appearance on "Jimmy Kimmel Live," the actor cracked several jokes at the mayor's expense when Spacey appeared after a brief cameo by Ford.

"That's the first time I've had to follow a Ford," Spacey quipped. "And one that was so banded up."

When Kimmel thanked Spacey for sharing a dressing room with the mayor, Spacey responded, "Well, he threw up all over it, but those are the chances you take."

Ford has been under great pressure to resign since he admitted smoking crack last year, and several videos have emerged that showed him seemingly drunk or high. His antics have made him the target of late-night television comedians as well as embarrassed Canadians. City Council stripped him of many of his powers but does not have the authority to remove him.

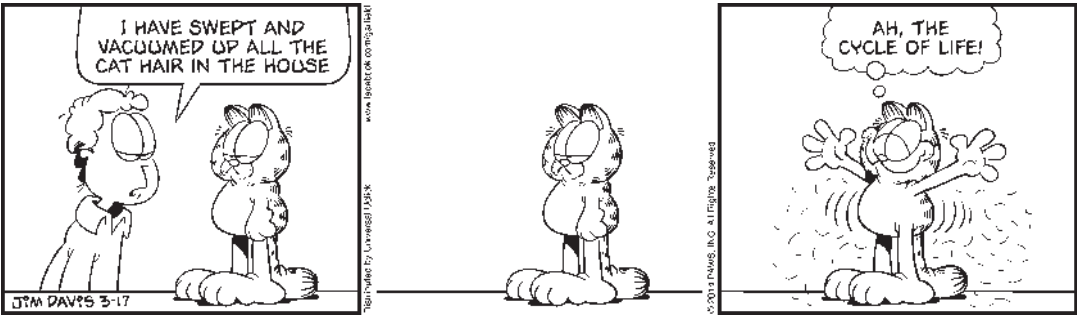
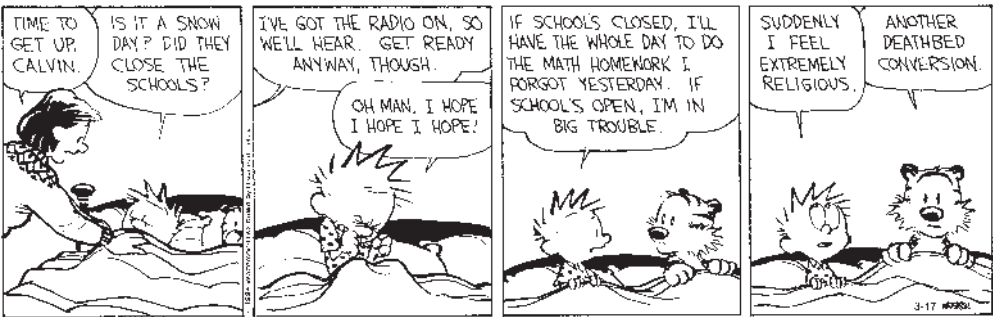
Undaunted, Ford has vowed to run for re-election this fall.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

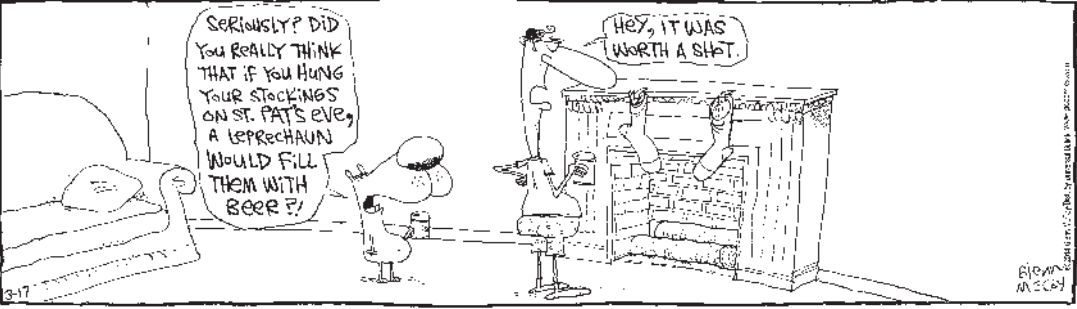
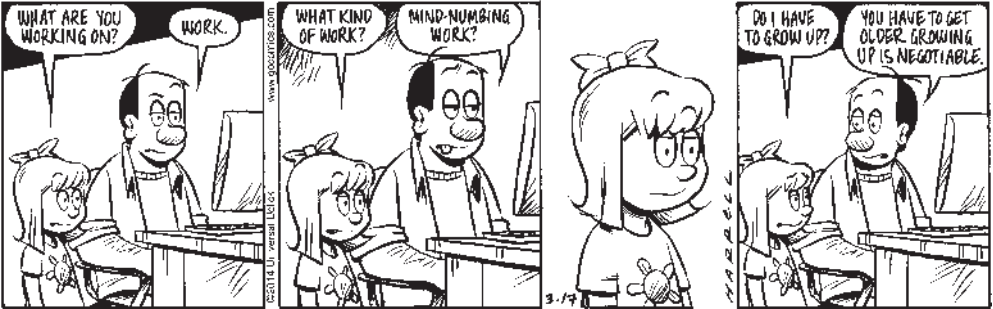
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

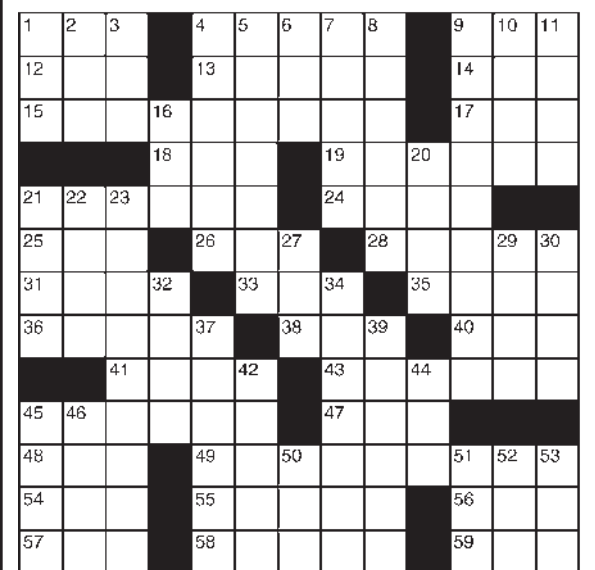
1 Pos-sesses
4 Synthetic fabric
9 Hot tub
12 Sort
13 Bush
14 Cribbage scorer
15 Large triangular sail
17 Anger
18 Worms holder?
19 — Mae (government lender)
21 Still in stock
24 Slightly
25 Soak (up)
26 Pooch
28 — moi, le deluge"
31 Eastern potentate
33 Pal of Wynken and Blynken
35 Location
36 Jeans material

DOWN

1 That guy's
2 Matter-horn, for one
3 Tackle the slopes
4 McDon-ald or Reagan
5 Strand
6 Tibetan beast
7 Last Greek letter
8 Tokyo airport
9 Sea spray
10 "Frasier" actress
11 Screen-writer
16 Sgt., for one
20 Siestas
21 Second-hand
22 Alaskan city
23 Bache-lorettes?
27 Sailor
29 List-ending abbr.
30 Alluring
32 Beatles' meter maid
34 "Mona Lisa" painter
37 Actress
39 Takes steps?
42 Mature
44 Firma-ment
45 "Mary — little lamb ..."
46 Pivot line
50 Bankbook abbr.
51 Book-keeper (Abbr.)
52 Powell co-star
53 Ram's mate

Solution time: 27 mins.

Friday's answer 3-17



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mia Hamm, 42; Rob Lowe, 50; Gary Sinise, 59; Kurt Russell, 63.

Happy Birthday: Put financial strategy into motion. Investments, wheeling and dealing or collecting what's owed to you place you in a good position for positive changes. Don't procrastinate. Seize the moment when it comes along and make moves that will lead to your professional advancement and personal gain. Stay in control and see matters through to the end. Your numbers are 5, 13, 22, 26, 34, 37, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't stir up an emotional situation. Let people come to you. Concentrate on unfinished projects that are weighing you down. A willingness to make adjustments to your plans will open up opportunities to collaborate with someone who has something worthwhile to offer. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Use charm and finesse to get ahead professionally. Present your ideas and services with confidence. Someone from your past can help fill a void you've been feeling. A partnership will help stabilize your life personally and professionally. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Forward thinking will help keep you on track. An unusual opportunity is apparent. Don't let it pass you by because you are too involved in trying to do the impossible. Go with the flow and you will find your way to victory. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stay calm, collect your thoughts and engage in dynamic conversations that are geared toward

positive change. There is much you can accomplish if you refuse to let negativity leak into your ideas, intentions and plans for future development. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Rely on friends or relatives you feel have clear vision. A change is in order, but it has to be the right move. Don't feel threatened by red tape or stipulations you encounter. Hard work will get you closer to your goal. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Shake things up a bit and take ownership of the things you do and say. Don't let what others do or say stand between you and your plans. Express your strategy boldly and continue in the direction that suits you. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Jump into action. Participate and engage in whatever grabs your interest. Sitting back or waffling will not impress others or help you advance. Love is on the rise, and a romantic gesture will improve your personal life. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Live in the here and now. The past will only drag you down and hold you back. Focus on home, family and possibilities for the future. Engage in creative or unique endeavors that have the potential to raise your income and your reputation. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Play strategically and fairly. Protect your secrets and be ready and willing to make last-minute changes if necessary. Don't let uncertainty within relationships be your downfall. Look out for your best interests. Romance is highlighted and love could lead to affluence. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be prepared to wheel and deal to the best of your ability. Nothing will come easy, but it will be worth your time and effort to do your best and push for what you want. Unexpected change will result in opportunity. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your passion and desire to do well and reach your goals will transform into proposals that can bring you greater financial security. Look at every angle and don't be afraid to negotiate until you feel content with the outcome. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take a moment to breathe. Formulate your plan of attack. Process all the information you receive and find the channel best suited to your specific needs as well as what you have to contribute. A personal investment will pay off. ***

Birthday Baby: You are an opportunist. You are willful, skillful and intuitively intelligent.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★ 3/17

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PLANING A DAY WITH MY BFF Solution: 4 letters

SCGNIAKABERIFNOB
LOBARSPOTLUCKOO
ANSSTSEDACRAAZW
VCBEURPARTYRRL
IEULICEETADEALI
TRPLHVRSSKGANOIN
STFARCOIAOMNKHG
ETIMESNMCLIEICA
FTSYDGEUHFNDIOL
OAHGLSBUCLINSFL
PLGNIKIBEACHKFE
SKLAWRUNNINGAE
NEDRAGNIPMACTEI
APSSALCESICREXE
HOMEUGAELSTROPS

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Arcades, Baking, Bars, Beach, Biking, Board Games, Bonfire, Bowling, Camping, Chill, Cinema, Circus, Clubs, Coffee, Concert, Crafts, Date, Dinner, Exercise Class, Festivals, Fish, Galleries, Garden, Golf, Gym, Home, Karaoke, Kayaking, Laser Tag, League, Lunch, Mall, Movies, Party, Picnic, Potluck, Pubs, Running, Skate, Spa, Sports, Talk, Time, Walks, Wild, Zoo
Last Friday's Answer: Love Me Again
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit wonderword.universalclic.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

76ers tie team mark with 20th straight loss



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Moments after the final horn sounded, the Twitter feed (at) didthesixerswin posted an update.

For the 20th straight game, 140 characters weren't needed, just two letters: No.

In a sports painfully familiar with sports futility, the Philadelphia 76ers have added another sorry chapter, this one for the record book.

Mike Conley scored 19 points and Zach Randolph had 14 to lead the Memphis Grizzlies to a 103-77 win Saturday night, sending the 76ers to a franchise-tying 20th straight loss.

The Sixers, who scored a season low in points, can set the team mark with a loss Monday night at Indiana.

The Sixers also lost 20 straight games from Jan. 9, 1973-Feb. 11, 1973, in a 9-73 season. The NBA record for consecutive losses in a season is 26 set by the 2010-11 Cleveland Cavaliers.

"We have to come out swinging," coach Brett Brown said. "We've got to compete."

They've absorbed their share of blows, and more may be coming: Over the next six games, the Sixers (15-51) play only one team with a losing record, the Knicks on Friday, and they are on a six-game winning streak.

Michael Carter-Williams led the Sixers with 23 points and Thaddeus Young had 20.

"This is not slit-your-wrist time. This is not even close to that," Brown said. "This is about building a program and understanding the short-term pain for a lot of long-term gain. That's my vision. That's how I approach it."

As the NBA season tipped off, the over-under in Las Vegas for total wins for the 76ers this year was 16.5, the lowest of any team in the league.

They stunned the league with a 3-0 start, including an opening-night win over the Miami Heat, and won four straight road games from Dec. 29-Jan. 4. Outside of those spurts, the Sixers have played down to their preseason projection as one of the NBA's worst.

"Any win we have right now would be considered an upset," Brown said. "That's the way it's played out at this stage."

The Sixers last won on Jan. 29 on former guard Evan Turner's buzzer-beater at Boston. They've lost a team-record 16 straight home games, last winning at the Wells Fargo Center on Jan. 15.

"I try to ignore the comments about us losing however many straight," Carter-Williams said.

The 53-year-old Brown was part of three NBA title teams with San Antonio as an assistant and won another with the Spurs when he served in the basketball operations department in 1998-99. Brown is used to a winning



Memphis Grizzlies' Zach Randolph, top left, gets a shot past Philadelphia 76ers' Thaddeus Young, center, and Henry Sims during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, March 15, 2014, in Philadelphia.

program at San Antonio, so he's not familiar with starting from the bottom. But the Sixers realize it's not an overnight process and gave him a four-year contract to turn things around.

"I've been asked by so many people, 'Why would you take the job and screw up your coaching percentage?'" he said. "As if I care about that. I knew what I was getting in to."

The free-falling Sixers are

gaining fast on Milwaukee (13-53) for the worst record in the NBA.

Unlike Friday night's loss against Indiana when they never led, the Sixers held an early edge against Memphis and played a competitive first half.

The Grizzlies were coming off a 99-86 loss at Toronto on Friday and needed some time to warm up in Philly. Once they got going, they became just the

latest team to stomp the Sixers.

"It's scary because they're looking to get a win and they're going to do whatever it takes to get one," Conley said.

Conley did his part to avert an upset, scoring nine points during Memphis' 15-6 run to open the second half that stretched the lead to 18. He kept the lead rolling with a 3-pointer and a fast-break layup off a turnover for a 67-46 lead. The Grizzlies,

winners of 12 of 16, had 13 players score and their 29-point lead in the fourth was their largest of the season.

Even a bit of an off night was enough for Memphis to cruise: The Grizzlies made only 4 of 15 3-pointers, were outrebounded, and had 22 turnovers.

Marc Gasol scored 11 points, Ed Davis had 11 rebounds, and the Grizzlies had 27 assists on 38 baskets.

"It's a good rhythm, but it's not where we want to be yet," Gasol said. "It's always on the good side. It's always better than losing, that's just for sure."

Just ask the Sixers.

Pacers 112, Pistons 104, OT

In Auburn Hills, Mich., Paul George scored 30 points and Indiana rallied from a 25-point second-quarter deficit to defeat Detroit.

Evan Turner added 20 points for the Pacers, and David West scored six of his 15 points in overtime. Indiana leads Miami by 3½ games in the race for the top seed in the Eastern Conference.

Josh Smith scored 23 points for the Pistons, who lost star center Andre Drummond in the first quarter to a neck injury. Drummond was able to walk off with some assistance, but he was expected to have further testing.

Bulls 94, Kings 87

In Chicago, Joakim Noah had 23 points and 11 rebounds, Taj Gibson scored seven of his 19 points in the fourth quarter and Chicago held off Sacramento.

Mike Dunleavy added 16 and DJ Augustin 12 for the Bulls.

Isaiah Thomas led the Kings with 26 and DeMarcus Cousins had 25.

Both teams struggled on offense, with the Bulls shooting 40 percent and the Kings 37 percent.

The Bulls, who are fourth in the Eastern Conference, im-

proved to 3-2 on their six-game homestand. The Kings are 2-4 on their seven-game road trip.

Cousins hit a layup with 1:01 left to cut the Bulls' lead to 88-85.

Gibson responded with a jumper and the Bulls made four of six free throws to seal the win.

Wizards 101, Nets 94

In Washington, John Wall scored 33 points, Drew Gooden got 11 of his 21 in the final quarter and Washington overcame a 10-point fourth-quarter deficit to beat Brooklyn and move past the Nets for fifth place in the Eastern Conference.

Gooden's 3-pointer broke a 94-94 tie with 2:37 left. Trevor Ariza then scored off an offensive rebound with 44 seconds left and Wall capped it with dunk.

The Nets, who went the final 6:22 without a field goal, were led by Marcus Thornton's 19 points. Joe Johnson added 16 and Paul Pierce had 15.

Trailing 82-72 early in the fourth, the Wizards went on a 15-4 run keyed by Gooden (8 of 11 from the field) and Al Harrington.

Washington completed a sweep of the season series (3-0).

Knicks 115, Bucks 94

In New York, Carmelo Anthony scored 23 points, Tim Hardaway Jr. had 20, and New York beat Milwaukee for its season-high sixth straight victory as the team prepares to welcome Phil Jackson back to the franchise.

Amare Stoudemire and J.R. Smith each scored 15 for the Knicks, who easily ended their daytime woes by pounding the team with the NBA's worst record.

Nate Wolters scored 15 for the Bucks, who lost their third straight.

New York's playoff push has taken a backseat to the news that Jackson was coming in to run the Knicks' front office. The Knicks will introduce the 11-time champion as a coach at a news conference Tuesday morning.

Hawks 97, Nuggets 92

In Atlanta, Paul Millsap had 24 points and 11 rebounds, Jeff Teague added 15 points and 10 assists and Atlanta rallied to beat Denver and earn its third straight win.

Kenneth Faried finished with 25 points and Wilson Chandler scored 12 for the Nuggets.

Kyle Korver, who hit a pair of free throws in the closing seconds to make it 96-92, scored 18 points and Pero Antic added 16 for Atlanta.

Ty Lawson, Denver's leading scorer this season, handed out 11 assists, but went 0 for 12 from the field and finished with two points.

The win kept the Hawks 3½ games ahead of the Knicks for the eighth and final Eastern Conference playoff spot.

Knicks players eager to see what Jackson can do

NEW YORK (AP)—Even before meeting with him, Knicks players like Phil Jackson's hiring to run their franchise.

"I'm a chess player, so that was a power move right there," Carmelo Anthony said. "So now we're going to see what's the next move. But that was a great power move."

The Knicks haven't officially announced it yet, holding off until a press conference Tuesday morning. But the 11-time champion as a coach was already the focus before and after the Knicks' 115-94 victory over Milwaukee on Saturday.

Jackson was on the Knicks' only two championship-winning teams, in 1970 and 1973. He went on to win 11 more rings as a coach with the Chi-

cago Bulls and Los Angeles Lakers, and the players are confident he can be a winner next as an executive.

"Phil knows what to do and how to build teams and how to win, that's the most important thing," Anthony said. "When you know how to win, whether you're a coach or whether you're in the front office, that stands out."

Jackson will be responsible for trying to keep Anthony - if that's what he wants - when the All-Star forward becomes a free agent this summer. He also will have to decide whether Mike Woodson remains as coach after leading the Knicks to the Atlantic Division title last season but only a 27-40 record so far in this one.

Woodson said he doesn't

feel he has to prove anything to Jackson in the final weeks of the season, though is aware some changes will be coming.

"When someone new comes in, he has his own thought process and philosophy in terms of how he feels and how the shape of the team should be, and until he gets here you just have no idea what he's thinking and which direction he wants to go," Woodson said.

Anthony said he hadn't spoken with Jackson. Nor had center Tyson Chandler, but he can envision the type of boss Jackson would be after competing against him.

"I can see him being hands on, the type of competitor that he is," Chandler said. "I can see him taking time out with certain individuals and really,

like I say, maximizing the talent that we have."

Woodson had a chance to talk with Jackson last year, when the Knicks held a dinner to celebrate the 40th anniversary of their last championship. Woodson recalled Jackson praised the team and told him to keep it up.

There's little to praise this season, another in a long list of debacles over the last decade. So the players are eager to see the impact that can be made by someone who's been around so much winning.

"He is a champion and a leader," forward Amare Stoudemire said. "He knows what it takes to win. He has been around great organizations and has been successful."

Pistorius photographed in bloodied prosthetics

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP)—Displaying photographs of a bare-chested Oscar Pistorius standing in his garage on bloodied prosthetic legs and wearing shorts soaked in his girlfriend's blood, prosecutors attempted Friday to focus attention on the killing for which the double-amputee Olympian is on trial for murder, while the defense poked holes in the police investigation that followed it.

The photos were taken in Pistorius' Pretoria home by police soon after he shot Reeva Steenkamp before dawn on Feb. 14, 2013.

Pistorius was seen from the front in the first photo shown in court, his muscled athlete's chest clean of blood while he stood on limbs stained up to the knees. A second image put up on television monitors in the courtroom was taken from Pistorius' left, showing a smear of blood not far from a tattoo of a biblical verse on his back.

He had shot his girlfriend about an hour earlier.

Pistorius was a celebrated track runner who rose from the hardship of having his legs amputated as a baby to compete at the London Olympics. He now faces 25 years to life in prison if convicted of premeditated murder.

The prosecution says Pistorius, 27, killed Steenkamp, 29, intentionally after a loud fight. The athlete maintains he shot her with his licensed 9 mm pistol by mistake, thinking she was an intruder in his bathroom.

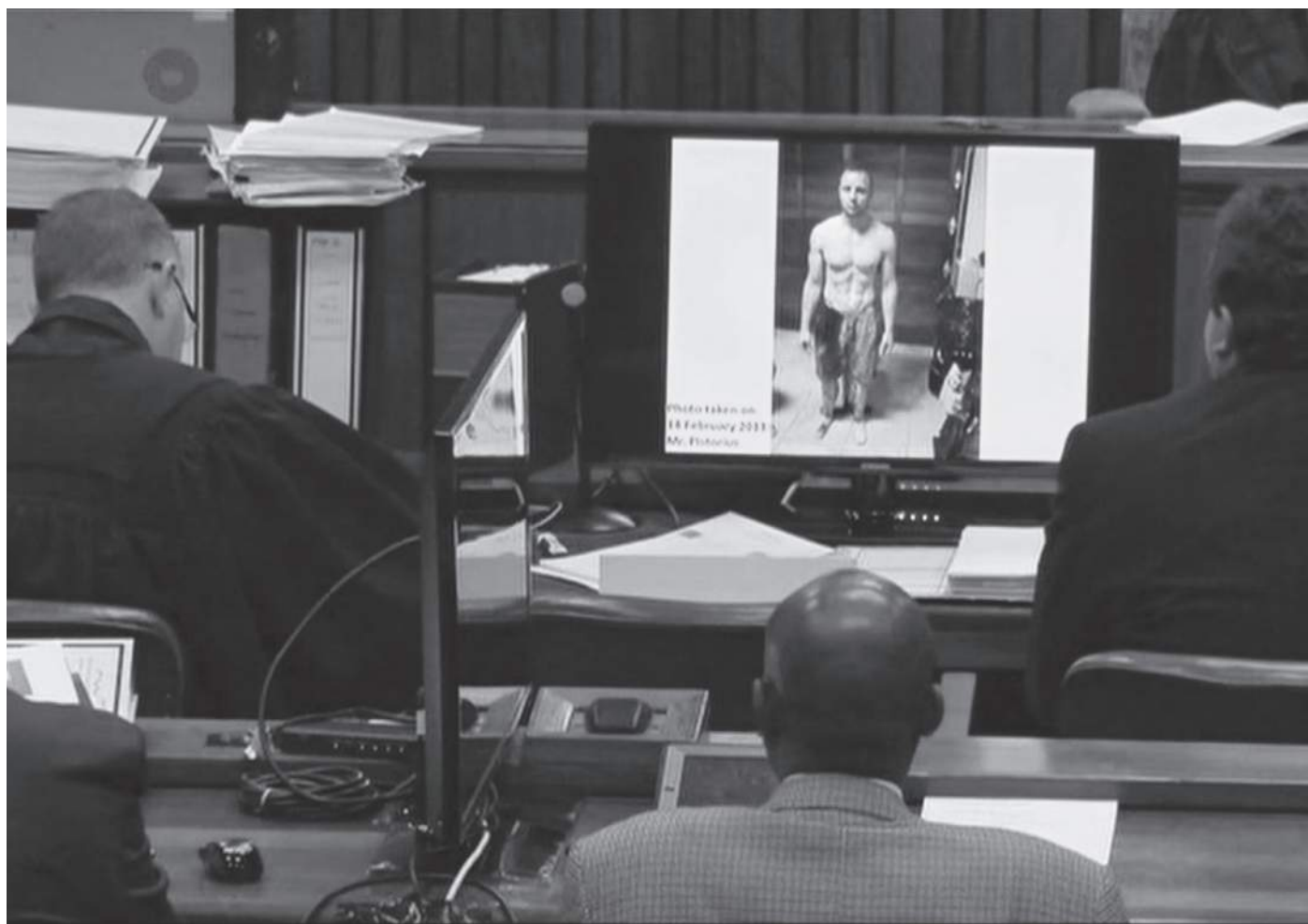
While prosecutors have recreated the bloody crime scene and Pistorius' physical condition through a sequence of photographs over two days in court, Pistorius' chief defense lawyer, Barry Roux, embarked on a minute examination of what he contends is major police bungling in the hours, days and even months after the shooting.

Roux said that officers moved evidence and disturbed the scene at the home, and failed to wear proper forensic clothing while picking through it. Police concede they kept the most crucial object—the wooden toilet cubicle door through which Pistorius shot Steenkamp—in a body bag in an office and that some of the fragments of wood disappeared.

Defense experts said they have also found key marks in the door that were not identified by police.

A former police colonel, one of the first on the scene, also testified Friday that he had to have police forensic experts frisked and their bags and cars searched after one of a collection of nine expensive watches in Pistorius' bedroom disappeared. G.S. van Rensburg said he opened a case of theft.

Roux's early questions Fri-



An image taken from the court pool TV via AP showing on screen a police photograph of Oscar Pistorius standing on his blood-stained prosthetic legs and wearing shorts covered in blood, taken shortly after the athlete fatally shot his girlfriend, which was shown to the court in Pretoria, at his murder trial Friday, March 14, 2014.

day reflected one of the key arguments in Pistorius' defense—that police tampered with the scene and contaminated the evidence.

“Were you acutely aware that you should not disturb

the scene? Did you have that awareness?” Roux asked van Rensburg, who said he arrived just before 4 a.m., about 30 to 40 minutes after prosecutors say Pistorius shot Steenkamp.

Roux honed in on small de-

tails. He said a small towel covering a cellphone in the bloody bathroom was moved so that it could be photographed, and that the evidence notes incorrectly presented the image as the crime scene as it was found.

A fan, curtains and an overnight bag and a pair of sandals apparently belonging to Steenkamp also were moved without van Rensburg's knowing when and by whom, he said.

There were bigger concerns.

During the investigation in the bathroom, van Rensburg testified that he turned around at one point to see that the firearms expert was handling the silver and black handgun Pistorius used to kill Steenkamp and had taken the magazine out of the weapon without using gloves.

“I asked him, ‘What are you doing?’” van Rensburg said. The officer realized his error, apologized, put the magazine back in the gun and put it back down, according to van Rensburg. He then put on his forensic gloves.

“I was very angry,” van Rensburg said.

The prosecution also posed questions, however, through its collection of photos from the inside of Pistorius' house. The photos showed blood stains and smatter on walls, floors and furniture, both upstairs and downstairs, where Pistorius says he carried Steenkamp to get help. They also revealed dents in the bedroom door, broken tiles in the bathroom and a metal panel on the wall that had been bashed in.

And for the first time, prosecutors offered a glimpse of the tiny toilet cubicle where Steenkamp was shot, displaying a close-up photograph of the toilet and an extensive blood smear on the rim, as well as thick blood streaks in the bowl, where the water was dark with blood.

Patriots announce signing of Brandon Browner



FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—The addition of cornerbacks Darrelle Revis and Brandon Browner

gives the New England Patriots' mediocre secondary an improved look.

After allowing the 15th most yards passing in the NFL—and 400 yards to Peyton Manning in a 26-16 loss in the AFC championship game last season—the Patriots moved with uncharacteristic speed to add outstanding veteran free agents.

The team announced on Saturday the signing of Browner, one day after the suspended former Seattle Seahawks player said on his Twitter account that he has agreed to a contract with the Patriots.

The Patriots have not announced the signing of Revis, but John Geiger, his business manager, said on Twitter on Thursday that the three-time All-Pro had agreed to terms with the team.

Neither the team nor the players released details of the deals, although Browner's reportedly was worth \$17 million over three years and Revis' reportedly was worth \$12 million for one year.

Two of last year's starters in the secondary are gone. Corner-

back Aqib Talib, a big, talented defender, left for the Denver Broncos, while safety Steve Gregory was released.

At 6-feet-4 and 220 pounds, Browner has the size and physical presence the Patriots have lacked in their safeties and could be tried there, especially with starter Alfonzo Dennard returning at cornerback and Kyle Arrington and Logan Ryan providing depth at that spot. Defensive captain Devin McCourty will be back at safety with Duron Harmon, a third-round draft choice out of Rutgers, who started three games as a rookie last year.

However they use Browner,

the Patriots will have to wait for him to contribute.

He was suspended in December for violating the league's substance abuse policy and must miss the first four games of the 2014 regular season. He will be allowed to attend training camp and play in exhibition games. He also was suspended four games in 2012 for violating the policy.

Browner, 29, had 19 tackles and one interception before he was injured in Week 10 last season. He missed the Super Bowl, which the Seahawks won 43-8 over the Broncos.

First word of his signing came from Browner himself.

“I am proud to announce that I am a New England Patriot,” he tweeted. “I intend to diligently work with the same passion and dedication that I have displayed since coming into the NFL to uphold the great traditions and qualities that are embodied by the Patriots.”

New England has won the last five AFC East titles and 10 of the last 11. It won three Super Bowls in four seasons before losing the only two it's played in during the past nine seasons.

Browner spent the past three seasons with Seattle after playing the previous four with Calgary of the CFL.

He started all 36 games he

played for the Seahawks and was selected for the Pro Bowl in his first season with them when he had 23 passes defended and six interceptions. But in the past two seasons he totaled 17 passes defended and four interceptions.

Revis started all 16 games last season for Tampa Bay after recovering from a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee and receiving a \$96 million, six-year contract. He played in just two games for the New York Jets in 2012 after starting 77 of their 80 regular-season games in his first five seasons. He made the Pro Bowl last season when he had two interceptions, a sack and two forced fumbles.

Packers pick up Peppers to perk up pass pressure

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—The Green Bay Packers defense has gotten a big jolt from a big name: Eight-time Pro Bowl defensive end Julius Peppers.

The ex-Carolina Panthers and Chicago Bears defensive end signed a three-year deal with the Packers on Saturday morning, bringing one of the NFL's best pass-rushers to a team that has historically avoided major free-agent splashes.

The move was first reported by ESPN. Peppers' agent, Carl Carey, posted photos to his Twitter account of Peppers signing the deal and standing on the still-frozen tundra of Lambeau Field before the team announced it officially later in the day.

The Packers would not make Peppers available to media.

“I haven't won a championship,” Peppers told the Packers' website. “That's where my focus is. I feel like the team is set up to make a run and I feel I can

help get it there.”

Peppers went to the Super Bowl in 2003 with the Panthers, losing to the New England Patriots.

The 34-year-old Peppers was released Tuesday by the Bears in a cost-cutting move. Peppers would have counted \$18.183 million against Chicago's salary cap this season and had a base salary of \$13 million.

Peppers played in all 64 of the Bears' games the past four seasons, posting 37.5 sacks.

His 7.5 sacks last season were his fewest since a career-low 2.5 sacks in 2007, but he still would have led the Packers in that category in 2012.

In Green Bay, Peppers is reunited with Mike Trgovac, who coached him for his first seven seasons in Carolina. Trgovac, the Packers' defensive line coach, was Peppers' defensive line coach as a rookie in 2002 and his defensive coordinator from 2003 through 2008.

Garrigus lead down to 1 shot at Innisbrook

PALM HARBOR, Fla. (AP)—Robert Garrigus missed two short par putts over the last seven holes Saturday, and just like that, his four-shot lead dwindled to one in the Valspar Championship.

That’s about the only thing that went quickly.

On a gorgeous afternoon at Innisbrook, pace of play on the PGA Tour reared its ugly head again.

Garrigus had to settle for a 1-under 70 when he missed short par putts on the 12th and 18th holes, giving him a one-shot lead over Kevin Na, who labored and fidgeted his way

around the Copperhead course to a 68.

The final group turned into a threesome for most of the back nine—Garrigus, Kevin Na and a rules official with his hand on a stopwatch. Even though they finished in just under four hours, they were as many as two holes behind the group ahead of them.

Both players were given a bad time—a first for Garrigus, but not for Na—and one more would have meant a one-shot penalty.

“I’m not used to being put on the clock,” said Garrigus, one of the fastest players in golf. “That’s the first time in nine

years—actually the first time in 17 years as a professional—I’ve ever got a bad time on the golf course. I started laughing.”

They were on the clock when Garrigus had a nasty lie in the rough on the side of the hill on the par-5 14th. He walked some 30 yards up to the green to study his shot, and by the time he walked back to hit it, he was went beyond his allotted 40 seconds.

Na was given a bad time on the par-3 13th hole when he was first to play.

“Over water, tough to judge the wind and corner pin is obvi-

ously brutal, and probably just took some extra time because it was probably a hard golf shot,” Na said. “Unfortunately, I was past the time. I know how to play. I don’t know what people were saying, but I don’t feel like I should be criticized for my play today because I’m the first one to admit if I play slow. But I really didn’t feel like I played slow today.”

A traffic jam is likely for the final round.

Garrigus was at 8-under 205, and the final seven holes brought several players back



PIKABOO

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Barra its second gold medal.

Gracie Barra Marianas delegation, which was headed by coach Peter Mendiola, missed a third gold when Kimo Lizama lost in the finals on points in the green belt division.

“Saipan was represented well by Shane and Gracie Barra competitors,” said Cuki Alvarez, who also watched relative Roman Alvarez win a silver medal in the blue belt.

‘Crank’ lords it over

Meanwhile, Frank “The Crank” Camacho was the biggest win-

ner in the annual competition, as he ruled the brown belt absolute (all weight classes) division and pocketed \$1,000.

Camacho of Purebred Jiu-Jitsu Guam, employed a Kimura lock on Vida BJJ’s Josh Santos at the four-minute mark of the gold medal match to win the highlight bout of the day in front of a huge crowd. Camacho, who also defeated a tough foe in fellow Rurebred Jiu-Jitsu Guam fighter Eric Sian in the semifinals, managed to win despite having little time to prepare and heal the cut (left eye) he sustained from his victory over Keita Nakamura in PXC 42 late last month.

“It was my first ever BJJ com-

petition at brown belt. I was very nervous at first, but had a good game plan going into the tournament. I love competing, it’s always a passion,” Camacho said.

“My semifinals match was my toughest one, personally. I fought my teammate and No. 1 training partner Eric Sian (Purebred). Eric is a really good friend and training partner, it was just unfortunate we were paired up in the first match. We have a very similar style of jiu-jitsu. It was like an unstoppable force running into a immovable object. It was basically a take-down fight the whole time with both trying to solidify position. We went all eight minutes of fighting to a 0-0 point match. I

won via 5 advantages to 1 advantage,” he added.

After facing a familiar foe in the semis, Camacho was paired against Santos for the first time.

“It was a very interesting match. I’ve never trained with him or fought him before but I heard he had a very tough closed guard with multiple attacks from that position. I went in there and scored 2 points immediately with a double leg takedown. I ended up in his closed guard and stuffed it to half guard. I worked from that position and had a couple of scrambles. I worked my way back to half guard where I finished the match via a Kimura,” Camacho said.

BUCHER

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even finished the two-loop swim leg ahead of Jacqui Slack, who is recognized as a better swimmer than the former. Bucher timed in at 23:48 to lead Austria’ Carina Wasle (24:08), former Saipan pro Mieko Carey (23:24), Slack (22:08), Dimity-Lee Duke (24:59), and Darrelle Parker (25:27).

Ahead by less than a minute against the diminutive but determined Wasle, Bucher gained more distance over her closest pursuer in the two-loop bike race, as the Swiss pro submitted 2:03:31, the fastest among the women’s pro. Wasle recorded a field-third best with her 2:08:48, just several seconds behind the 2:08:03 of Slack.

Wasle, who had a bad crash in the 2013 race and did not finish XTERRA Philippines, then caught up with Bucher past the halfway mark of the up-and-down run course. However, Wasle failed to keep her distance and settled for a bridesmaid finish, as the exhausted Austrian pro hobbled and nearly fainted in the last 300 meters of the race, according to organizers.

Wasle finished less than a minute behind Bucher after timing in at 3:25:18. Carey rounded out the Top 3 after registering 3:27:34, while Slack, the defending XTERRA Saipan champion, had another fourth place finish in the Philippines with her 3:29:19.

Bucher attributed her good start in XTERRA Asia’s Triple Crown to nice pacing.

“Today (last Saturday), I paced myself. The course was hard and it was very hot, so some participants fainted. I am happy, I made it through. I hydrated well and had good nutrition and there really helped a lot,” said Bucher, who is looking forward to XTERRA Saipan, the last stop of the tri-fecta. XTERRA Guam will be the second leg (March 29) of the Asian Triple Crown.

Bucher bagged her second XTERRA Philippines title in three years. She was runner-up to Leslie Paterson last year.

In the men’s division, XTERRA Philippines has a new champion in South Africa’s Dan Hugo, who defeated compatriot Bradley Weiss and erstwhile champion Ben Allen of Australia.

Hugo completed the grueling

race in 2:48:48, wrestling the lead from Allen in the bike leg, as the Australian was slowed down by a crash and a couple of flat tires. Hugo clocked in at 19:56 and was third out of the water in the men’s pro behind Allen (18:57) and Weiss (19:51). In the bike leg, the XTERRA Saipan runner-up finished more than 20 minutes ahead of Allen, timing in at 1:43:26 against the later’s 2:11:17. Weiss posted 1:50:37 to move up to second place. A men’s pro-field best 45:26 in the run leg secured Hugo’s victory, as crossed the finish line about eight minutes ahead of Weiss (2:56:39) and more than 30 minutes ahead of Allen (3:21:52). Guam’s Charlie Epperson (3:30:07) and Malaysia’s Shahrom Abdullah (3:32:58) rounded out the Top 5.

FATEFUL

From Page 28

the boys that basketball is not all about skills. You can’t show up a few minutes before the game and expect to perform to the best of your ability. It showed the team that we were not unbeatable,” said Basa.

“Most of the boys showed up a few minutes before the start of the game. We were not able to do our warm-up drills which affected the routine of our team. The boys were not mentally prepared and it showed throughout the game,” the MHS mentor added.

Although he noted his play-

ers’ failure to show up for the semis match early as one of the culprits in the shocking loss, Basa also accepted responsibility for their lackluster performance.

“I take part of the blame because I could have done a better job coaching. I was just caught off guard with the way the game was going,” the rookie coach added.

Basa and company went on to lick their wounds and fight fatigue to avoid a total collapse at the hands of the hard-fighting Ayuyus. The Dolphins won Game 1 of the finals, 53-43, to force a deciding Game 2.

“After Game 1, the boys were tired, but the thought of being one game closer to winning the championship gave them the energy and motivation to pull through. We were confident that we could win again. A lot of players stepped up in the first game and gave opportunity to our starters to rest for Game 2,” Basa said.

The Dolphins won Game 2 in an exciting fashion, 37-36. Mike Arciaga played hero in title-clinching game, making a putback off a miss from Kobe Mendoza in the closing seconds of the do-or-die match.

“It was a scary win and I

am glad the boys remained focused in the closing seconds of Game 2,” said Basa, who also took note of Mendoza’s block against Jesse Santos’ desperation trey and MHS’ preemptive foul earlier.

“In the closing minutes, I told them to stay focus and not to feed in into the crowd. We had to work as a team to win the game and did not need anyone to try and do too much. I told them to trust one another and have confidence in their teammates,” said Basa, who will have several players returning next season to defend their crown.

into the mix - most of them needing a win to get into the Masters.

John Senden of Australia made a 30-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to cap off a 64, moving up 32 spots on the leaderboard into third place, just two shots behind. Justin Rose, at No. 7 the highest-ranked player in the field, made bogey from a wild tee shot on the 18th for a 69 and was three shots behind.

Relief Goosen finished his bogey-free 64 some 2 1/2 hours before the leaders began the third round. He made the cut on the number, and suddenly finds himself within four shots

of the lead on a course where he has won before. Goosen was at 4-under 209, along with Scott Langley (69) and Charley Hoffman (67).

Luke Donald, a winner at Innisbrook two years ago, was in the group five shots behind.

Garrigus did plenty right. He hit two balls off the first tee, only to find his original tee shot had banged off a tree and back into play. He converted that into a birdie, made a 12-foot birdie on the next hole and stretched his lead to four shots with a nifty flop shot from the pine straw that set up a birdie on the par-5 fifth.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN
CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	37	27	.578	—
Brooklyn	33	30	.524	3½
New York	26	40	.394	12
Boston	22	44	.333	16
Philadelphia	15	50	.231	22½

Southeast Division

x-Miami	44	19	.698	—
Washington	34	31	.523	11
Charlotte	32	34	.485	13½
Atlanta	28	35	.444	16
Orlando	19	48	.284	27

Central Division

x-Indiana	48	17	.738	—
Chicago	36	29	.554	12
Cleveland	26	40	.394	22½
Detroit	25	40	.385	23
Milwaukee	13	52	.200	35

WESTERN
CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	49	16	.754	—
Houston	44	21	.677	5
Dallas	39	27	.591	10½
Memphis	38	27	.585	11
New Orleans	26	39	.400	23

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	48	17	.738	—
Portland	43	23	.652	5½
Minnesota	32	32	.500	15½
Denver	29	36	.446	19
Utah	22	44	.333	26½

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	47	20	.701	—
Golden State	41	26	.612	6
Phoenix	37	28	.569	9
Sacramento	23	42	.354	23
L.A. Lakers	22	44	.333	24½

x-clinched playoff spot

VALSPAR CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

PALM HARBOR, Florida (AP) — Scores Saturday at the Valspar Championship, a US PGA Tour event at the 7,340-yard, par-71 Copperhead Course at Innisbrook Resort and Golf Club:

THIRD ROUND

Robert Garrigus	69-66-70—205
Kevin Na	70-68-68—206
John Senden	72-71-64—207
Justin Rose	71-68-69—208
Relief Goosen	72-73-64—209
Charley Hoffman	70-72-67—209
Scott Langley	71-69-69—209
Luke Donald	71-72-67—210
Jason Kokrak	74-68-68—210
Matteo Manassero	69-70-71—210
George McNeill	73-71-67—211
Ted Potter, Jr.	73-71-67—211
Will MacKenzie	73-70-68—211
James Driscoll	73-70-68—211
Freddie Jacobson	70-71-70—211
David Hearn	71-70-70—211
Jim Furyk	71-69-71—211
Matt Every	68-71-72—211
Chesson Hadley	75-70-67—212
Jordan Spieth	71-70-71—212
Carl Pettersson	71-70-71—212
John Merrick	70-70-72—212
Greg Chalmers	68-72-72—212
Jason Dufner	72-73-68—213
Chad Collins	73-71-69—213
Matt Kuchar	73-71-69—213
K.J. Choi	72-72-69—213
Russell Knox	70-73-70—213
Gary Woodland	72-71-70—213
Josh Teater	73-70-70—213
Jonathan Byrd	70-73-70—213
James Hahn	69-74-70—213
Ben Crane	72-72-71—213
Kevin Streelman	73-69-71—213
Justin Leonard	71-71-71—213
Michael Thompson	72-69-72—213
Tommy Gainey	69-72-72—213
Peter Hanson	75-70-69—214
Nicholas Thompson	76-69-69—214
Justin Hicks	72-72-70—214
Robert Allenby	73-71-70—214
D.H. Lee	74-70-70—214
Graham DeLaet	75-68-71—214
Morgan Hoffmann	74-69-71—214
Stephen Ames	72-70-72—214
Rory Sabbatini	70-72-72—214
Bill Haas	69-73-72—214
Brian Harman	71-70-73—214
Y.E. Yang	73-72-70—215
Cameron Tringale	74-71-70—215
Brendon Todd	70-75-70—215
Davis Love III	74-70-71—215
Jerry Kelly	76-68-71—215
Ben Curtis	70-74-71—215
Michael Putnam	69-72-74—215
Charles Howell III	71-70-74—215
Harris English	72-69-74—215
Daniel Summerhays	77-68-71—216
J.B. Holmes	71-74-71—216
Brandt Snedeker	72-73-71—216
Sang-Moon Bae	72-73-71—216
David Lingmerth	73-72-71—216
Woody Austin	71-71-74—216
Pat Perez	68-71-77—216
Erik Compton	72-73-72—217
Ryo Ishikawa	73-72-72—217
Padraig Harrington	75-70-72—217
Mark Calcavecchia	73-71-73—217
Paul Goydos	75-69-73—217
Darren Clarke	71-74-73—218
Jason Bohn	71-74-73—218
Sean O'Hair	73-71-74—218
Marc Leishman	75-69-74—218
Stuart Appleby	71-73-74—218
John Mallinger	71-73-74—218
Nicolas Colsaerts	69-73-76—218

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tsunami Saipan Swimmers at Tokyo Sprint

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



From left, Angel De Jesus, Miku Tammy, Kaito Yanai, Japan-based Shin Kimura, and Takumi Sugie pose for a photo at the Tatsumi International Swimming Arena in Japan during their participation in the 2014 Tokyo Junior Sprint last week.



Angel De Jesus, seventh block, poses with the Top 8 qualifiers in the 100m individual medley race.



Kaito Yanai and Miku Tammy show their gold medals.



Kaito Yanai is shown on the screen before the start of the final heat of the 100m individual medley.



Kaito Yanai leads the podium finishers in the 100m individual medley.



Tsunami Saipan's Angel De Jesus dives into the pool during the 50m freestyle swim qualifying heat.



Miku Tammy leads the awardees in the 50m butterfly race.



Participants head into the Tatsumi International Swimming Arena, which will be the venue of the 2020 Olympic Games.



Spectators wait for the start of the swim races at the Tatsumi International Swimming Arena.



76ers tie team
mark with 20th
straight loss

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Pistorius
photographed
in bloodied

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28 MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pikaboo, 2 others strike gold

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Trench Tech's Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez and Gracie Barra Marianas' Jesus and Lorenzo Attao bagged gold medals in the 2014 Marianas Open Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Tournament held last Saturday at the Father Duenas Memorial School's Phoenix Center in Guam.

Cuki Alvarez, father and trainer of Shane, in an email to *Saipan Tribune*, said his son won the gold medal in the white belt category (150 to 160 division), while Francis Mendiola, one of the coaches of Gracie Barra Marianas, posted in his email account, said Jesus and Lorenzo also competed in the white belt division (youth).

Completing and detailed results of the Marianas Open have yet to be posted at the event's official Facebook account, but according to Mendiola, Jesus had three bouts in the weekend competition and recorded one victory via gi choke and two off Kimura hold. Lorenzo also defeated his finals foe in submission to give Gracie Barra Marianas the gold medal. **See PIKABOO on Page 26**

Fateful loss helps MHS win



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marianas High School's Ignacio Borja drives to the baseline against Kagman High School's Jason Lampkin during their title game in the MISO caging early this month at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Coach Preston Basa of Marianas High School was thankful they missed a perfect record in the 2013-2014 Marianas Inter-scholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League.

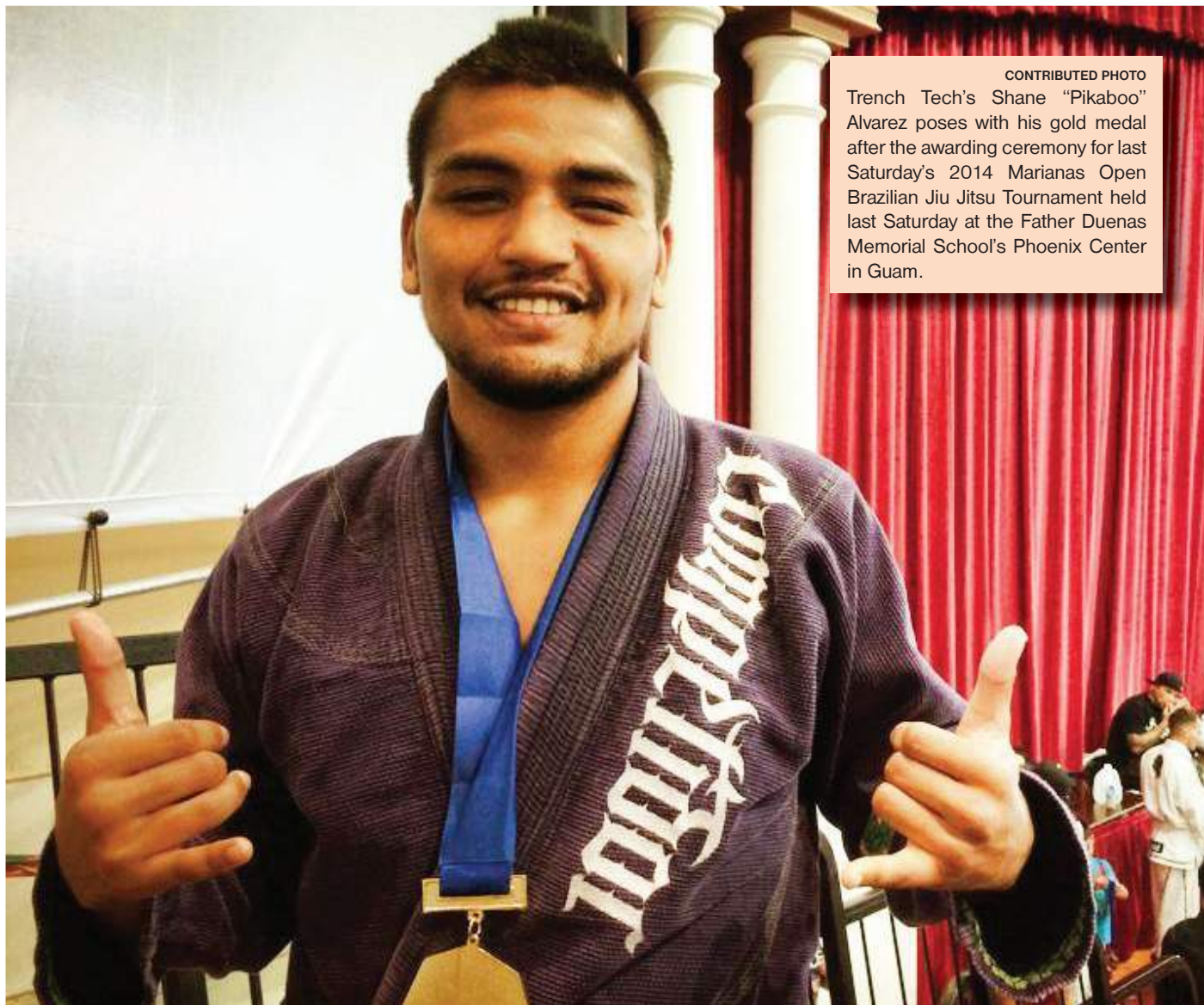
He was, believe it or not.

The Dolphins had their winning run snapped by Kagman High School during the winner's bracket semis game at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium more than a week ago. Basa's wards, who swept the double-

round robin regular season and prevailed in their first playoff game, lost the outright finals ticket to the team they defeated twice in the preliminary phase of the MISO caging. The Dolphins suffered a bad beating, as the Ayuyus took a 23-point winning margin, 70-47.

With the upset, MHS dropped to the loser's bracket and had to beat back-to-back champion Tinian High School in a rubber match and Kagman twice to clinch the varsity championship.

"The loss was humbling and was a good opportunity to teach **See FATEFUL on Page 26**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Trench Tech's Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez poses with his gold medal after the awarding ceremony for last Saturday's 2014 Marianas Open Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Tournament held last Saturday at the Father Duenas Memorial School's Phoenix Center in Guam.

Bucher, Hugo draw first blood

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Seven-time XTERRA Saipan winner Renata Bucher surprised herself and her rivals in the kickoff of the XTERRA Asia Triple Crown after winning last Saturday's 2014 XTERRA Philippines in Lilo-an, Cebu.

"I was not expecting to win this race," said Bucher, who clinched the women's title after completing the 1.5-kilometer swim, 36K bike, and 10K run in 3:24:59.

"Before coming to the Philippines I raced in New Zealand, the longest XTERRA race on the circuit. It took me 4:38:00 to finish and I came out at second place. So when I went to the Philippines, I was not fresh at all. I was nervous going into last Saturday's race," said Bucher.

However, there was no trace of fatigue when the "Swiss Miss" started the race, as she **See BUCHER on Page 26**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

South Africa's Dan Hugo and Switzerland's Renata Bucher pose for a photo after racing in XTERRA Philippines in Cebu last Saturday.